

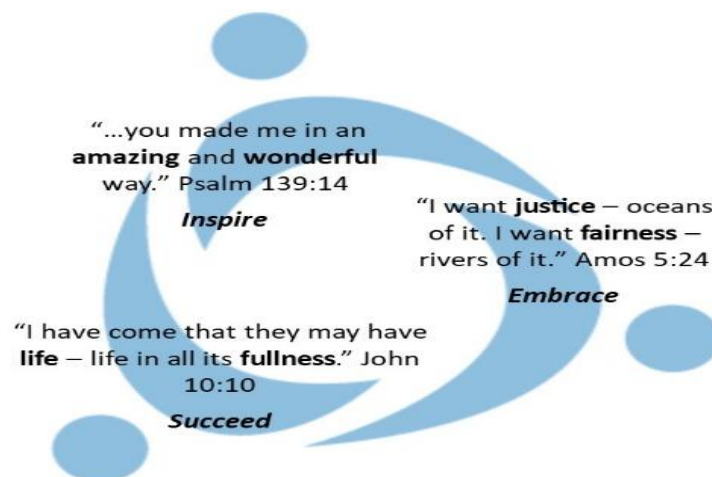
Deeply Christian Narrative that Underpins the Vision, Ethos and Values of St Oswald's

The vision, ethos and values of St Oswald's is as distinct as the community it serves. The person of Jesus, his ministry and teaching drive our vision and shape the approach that we take as we go about working with the children and families.

Jesus's ministry was one of transformation of both individuals and communities – the Kingdom of God in the present. His ministry was counter-cultural and demolished the cultural norms of the day - breaking down barriers, unafraid to question authority and releasing potential in the people he engaged with; from the woman at the well, the lepers in the street to the tax collector in a tree he focused on those that were marginalised, friendless and without hope. His 2nd commandment (Love your neighbour as yourself) showed the love he had for everyone regardless of ethnicity, gender or place in society and his high expectations for their lives.

As a school we strive to emulate this example.

Our vision, summed up with our motto: Inspire, Embrace, Succeed, defines our values and ethos.



Who are we?

“...you made me in an **amazing** and **wonderful** way.” Psalm 139.14

Jesus saw the uniqueness, beauty and preciousness of every individual because all are made in the image of God. He had a hope for them that was beyond that which anyone else could imagine – this is inspirational. At St Oswald's, where others would have given up, we search for the key to unlock each individual, teaching and nurturing throughout our distinctly Christian values and restoring those that are lost so that they can take their place in our school community. Thus, the parable of the lost sheep underpins our ethos, teaching redemption, a true rescue mission and love and concern for all. All people are made in the image of God so all are made in an amazing and wonderful way.

Why are we here?

“I want **justice** – oceans of it. I want **fairness** – rivers of it.” Amos 5.24

When Jesus overturned the tables in the Temple he was restoring justice and fairness. Just as he did when he challenged the mob for the blameless to cast the first stone. At St Oswald's we embrace issues fairly and with equity – accepting that some children will require more support than others to achieve their best. We strive to invest and input to ALL children as the need dictates, exhausting every avenue to uplift individuals emotionally, socially, spiritually and academically. Yet we do not compromise our beliefs and principals, ensuring justice for all. We take our responsibilities seriously, adhering to policies and practices, recognising our limitations and making difficult decisions where necessary. Ultimately, we want our school to be a place where there is justice and fairness for all and where all can achieve.

How then shall we live?

“I have come that they may have **life** – life in all its **fullness**” John 10:10

The transformational message of Jesus gives people hope and freedom. At St Oswald's the fulfilment of our vision will see the flourishing of our community, through the realisation that education is the key to demolishing many of the barriers children in our society face today. We want to inspire all through our whole school curriculum; creating aspiration, evoking a sense of awe and fostering respect for every individual; we want all to embrace challenges with enthusiasm, energy and eagerness so that they will take advantage of every opportunity that life gives. To succeed at St Oswald's means to achieve excellence in ones self – life in all its fullness. Not only will this impact positively in the short term but it is the foundations for change and hope for the future.