

Our Christian Vision



Who Are We?

Stretton Church of England Academy is a small one form entry primary school based within a close community. We welcome and embrace local children, those from neighbouring areas. The proportion of children from underserved backgrounds and those with special educational needs or disabilities is significantly above the national average. Currently, we have a mixed population of children from White British heritage and a diversifying heritage of different faiths and cultures.

The school is part of the Coventry Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust which strengthens our effectiveness as a church school and increases capacity for improvement. Being part of the MAT has expanded opportunities for collaboration and professional development. Our staff is stable, with a mix of new, and long-serving staff.

Partnership with the local church has been limited due to the church's vacancy and the parish's restructuring into a parish of three churches, a situation that will continue until January 2025.

In this context, we are called to serve, striving for the full flourishing of everyone. Our vision is inspired by and rooted in biblical and theological ideas from our Christian foundation. It aligns with the Church of England Vision for Education and the vision of the Coventry Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust.

What Are We Doing Here?

'Let your light shine'

Our vision for our community is for everyone, children and adults, to flourish and shine brightly as the best and fullest version of their unique selves. We aim high and do not let circumstances limit us. *'I will shine. We will shine as, together, we grow in wisdom, learning from the teachings of Jesus, to serve our community.'*

In the Old Testament, we see that God created all human beings in his image as unique, loved individuals. It was God's plan for all of creation, including human beings, to flourish. God's desire is for us all to be amazing – loved, valued, represented, celebrated, and fulfilled.

Genesis 1:27: "So, God created human beings, making them to be like himself."

Psalms 139:13-14: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful."

In our community, we express this through our motto: 'Let your light shine.' To us, this means being ambitious and determined, proud of who we are and what we can be, pushing boundaries, trying new things, making a difference, being brave, and continuing to learn. **Matthew 5:16** '*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.*' It means celebrating diversity and difference, treasuring the uniqueness of everyone. We are committed to the full flourishing of everyone – body, mind, and spirit.

The work of our school is to equip everyone to discover and love their unique self, to express it boldly and confidently through their treasured gifts, and to find their place in making God's world a better place.

How Then Shall We Live and Learn?

The culture and consciousness of our school are expressed through the following biblically based Christian values.

- **Love** – God is Love (1 John 4:16)
- **Hope** – I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him (Psalm 62:5)
- **Truth** – Love, truth and peace (Zechariah 8:19)
- **Peace & Reconciliation** – Turn away from evil and do good; strive for peace with all your heart (Psalm 34:14)
- **Fairness** – Do what is fair and just to your neighbour, be compassionate and loyal in your love (Micah 6)
- **Perseverance** – And to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, Godliness (2 Peter 1:6)

Curriculum Intent

At Stretton, we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which enables all children to be confident, independent and inquisitive learners who develop a lifelong love of learning and an understanding of the world – past, present and future. We provide high-quality learning through skilled explanation and modelling by teachers who have excellent subject and curriculum knowledge. Pedagogical expertise underpins teachers' ability to build opportunities for children to deepen their understanding and the ability to recall what they have learnt in a sophisticated and

meaningful way. Our curriculum is designed to inspire and engage. Our curriculum is based on the existing National Curriculum and reflects a wide and varied learning experience which is enriched through creative contexts and our values-based learning community. We are committed to developing the whole child. Our curriculum has been specifically designed to ensure that our children are given wider opportunities to explore diversity and differences within the world.

Our Aims:

Stretton Church of England Academy Curriculum enables all children to:

- Become enthusiastic and successful learners who love the challenge of learning, make progress and achieve their full potential
- Grow into confident individuals who can live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Develop as responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society
- Understand the value of learning and who continue that process through their lives
- Apply knowledge in varying contexts
- Develop a broad, meaningful vocabulary with conceptual understanding
- Develop into enthusiastic and successful learners who love the challenge of learning and are resilient to failure.
- Develop into curious, interested learners who seek out and use new information to develop, consolidate and deepen their knowledge understanding and skills.

Language of spirituality

In our school we are committed to the flourishing of everyone as unique, complete individuals – body, mind and spirit. Although spirituality is something that is almost beyond words, we describe it as ‘being and becoming our unique selves’. We use words such as wondering, searching, belonging and connecting to describe the journey of self-discovery in relation to ourselves, others and God (or something/someone beyond). Spirituality is about an inner spark or desire that is nurtured by our relationships, experiences and curiosity, and inspires our choices, attitudes, values and beliefs.

Encouraging spiritual growth in our children through:

- being guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand to defend them be self-aware and empathise with the experience of others in the school and wider community.
- love themselves, care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve, and find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges.
- exercise imagination and creativity, appreciate beauty in the world and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder.
- be intrigued by mystery and be open to an awareness of the transcendent in the whole of life
- be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection/meditation/prayer.
- be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves and to forgive others
- be willing to take risks and to reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success
- demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions
- appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life like friends and family and show generosity towards others.

WOWs, OWS and NOW

We help each other to recognise these moments in life and to reflect on events

WOW moments

These are the awe and wonder moments. The times when you want to breathe in and capture the feeling, holding onto it as long as you can.

OW moments

These are the blows life can bring. They can knock the breath out of you.

NOW moments

These are the everyday ordinary times: being able to be present in the moment, being open and receptive to life, because God is not just for emergencies!