



St Georges Church School and Nursery

Our ethos and vision

“All things are possible for one who believes.” (Mark 9:23)

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” (John Wesley)

Our vision is that with faith and belief we can transform lives – not only in our school but also beyond, in our local and international communities, creating global citizens of the future who are stewards of the Earth. We want all our children to leave St Georges with the knowledge and skills to flourish in life, and the dispositions to help others to flourish as well.

Our mission

Our mission is to create classrooms where children achieve more than they think possible. Adults are supported to fulfil their highest aspirations, so that all members of our learning community can live life in all its fullness (John 10:10) and become active contributors to building a better world. St Georges' citizens are stewards of the Earth.

At St Georges we know that children and adults flourish when, through love and nurture, they are engaged in learning that is challenging, adventurous and meaningful.

St Georges Church School and Nursery is committed to the philosophy that learning is limitless and everything is possible. We believe that there is a special spark in everyone, and that every child is intelligent and extraordinary.

Giving children the best possible start

St Georges prides itself in a loving approach to learning and in our children getting the best possible foundation in life. Our highly skilled early years professionals understand child development and how crucial the early years are in creating fundamental building blocks that will secure the children's future success as lifelong learners.

Our dedicated early years practitioners care deeply about the children and are committed to establishing close relationships and educational partnerships with families and the local community, seizing every learning opportunity from the earliest of stages.

We believe passionately in nurturing children's curiosity, independence and creativity; promoting child-led learning and providing children with rich, open-ended, purposeful play experiences within our free-flowing indoor and outdoor learning environments. Our play-based, purposeful provision follows our children's current interests and sensitively responds to the individual needs of the children and real-life situations. The children are empowered to take ownership of their learning; seek out care of their own wellbeing; become confident communicators and self-assured risk takers.

We understand that high-quality, in-the-moment interactions are key to our children's progress. It is when children become deeply engaged in what they are doing, in moments of inquisitiveness, wonder and puzzlement, that the adults together with the children make the most difference.

We believe starting well together needs to continue seamlessly throughout our children's journey at St Georges, and the values we embrace from the start simply evolve and grow. We plant seeds that develop roots and shoots, and one day blossom.

Our values for learning and our curriculum | How then shall we live?







At St Georges we are creating an inclusive culture, rooted in Christian values but also appreciating the importance of celebrating our multi and non-faith families in a socially diverse environment. Our vision that all things are possible with God encourages us to reach out across boundaries, building friendships and community with all people. We place emphasis on having common values and shared principles for life.

For children to grow into ambitious young people who are morally, spiritually and culturally aware, and who are able to contribute positively to society and the lives of others, we understand that our school ethos and curriculum need to be woven with understanding, acceptance and mutual respect.

Our school builds a culture of respect, responsibility, kindness and courage, where everyone is committed to quality learning and citizenship. School structures such as crew, community groups, exhibitions of learning and community work ensure that every person in our community is known and cared for, our young future leaders are nurtured, and contributions to the school and world are celebrated.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church, urged his followers to: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Inspired by this, everyone is supported to strive to do better and be better; to be the best version of themselves and to be more than they thought possible.

Our core Christian values underpin all we do at St Georges. The core values that were chosen by our community in September 2022 are woven throughout the life of the school.

Community & Friendship	Respect	Trust & Forgiveness	Service	Thankfulness	Hope
					
"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." (Psalm 133:1)	"Honour your father and mother, and love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 19:19)	"Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others." (Colossians 3:13) "My God is my strength in whom I trust." (Psalm 18:2)	"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)	"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)	"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

At St Georges we are constructing a curriculum that will make standards come alive for children by connecting learning to real-world issues and needs. Academically rigorous, enquiry-led learning, projects, field work and serving the community inspire children to think and work as professionals, contributing to high quality learning with authentic audiences beyond the classroom. Adults talk less. Children talk (and think) more. Lessons have explicit purpose and intent which is visible to the learners. Children take ownership and responsibility for their next steps through a rich culture of ongoing dialogue and feedback. Through engagement strategies and precision teaching, learning is differentiated to maintain high expectations which bring out the best in all learners, cultivating a culture of excellence where everyone is in pursuit of being the best version of themselves.

Dimensions of 21st century learning at St Georges



At St Georges we know the importance of children understanding how they learn and what skills and dispositions they need to be able to be lifelong learners. We use ELLI (Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory) as a platform to help children to understand seven key dimensions of learning:

Curiosity

Powerful learners love asking their own questions to find out what is really going on. Curiosity is represented by the Cat. Children may be asked to question 'What is new?' about a method they have been learning and 'What is different?'



Making Connections

Powerful learners are great at being able to connect what they have learnt from one lesson to another and to their lives outside of school. Making Connections is represented by the Spider. Children may be asked how they can use what they learnt in another lesson to help with the task.



Changing and Learning

Powerful learners understand that they can become better learners over time. Changing and Learning is represented by the Chameleon. Children may be asked how they would work, create or learn differently next time.



Resilience

Powerful learners don't give up easily when things start to get difficult. Resilience is represented by the Tortoise. Children may be asked to complete open-ended activities where there is no right or wrong answer.



Strategic Awareness

Powerful learners know what to do next by having their own strategies which they are able to choose between. Strategic Awareness is represented by the Owl. Children may be asked to select for themselves the level/ difficulty of their work to ensure they are working with the right amount of challenge.



Creativity

Powerful learners love playing with possibilities and using their imagination to solve problems in different ways. Creativity is represented by the Unicorn. Children may be asked to use their creativity in English or Art or to think about approaching a problem in DT or Science in a creative way.



Learning Relationships

Powerful learners love sharing their thoughts and ideas with others and working well together to solve problems. They also know when it is more effective to work on their own. Learning Relationships is represented by the Bee. Children may be asked to 'Think, Pair and Share' or to decide whether to work alone, in pairs or as a group on a particular task



Through using ELLI we create a powerful learning culture in the classrooms and across the school, which systematically cultivates habits and attitudes that enable young people to become better learners and to face difficulty and uncertainty calmly, confidently and creatively. We therefore engage children consciously with ideas and processes of their own learning, in the knowledge that learning itself is learnable.