

*Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.  
Enabling every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness.*

**Mrs L Batey - Headteacher, BSc QTS NPQH**



**Shankhill C of E Primary School**

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1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Dear Pupils, Parents, Guardians, Staff and Governors,

RE: **YOUR VIEWS**

We are seeking your views to help us to evaluate our school, and to review our School Vision, Values, Virtues and Mission Statement. Please can you help by noting a few comments in the boxes on the attached sheet and return it to school by Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December. Alternatively, you can complete an electronic form in this link

We look forward to reading your responses as we value your opinions. Thank you for your time, and please feel free to speak with me, or any teacher or governor, should you wish to discuss things further. More information is available overleaf and also on our website.

Yours sincerely

Lynnsey Batey  
Head Teacher

*"This school continues to be good... maintains good quality education... pupils gain a sense of achievement from their lessons... they display excellent attitudes towards their learning... behaviour in lessons and around school is impeccable... Staff are welcoming and inclusive... strong Christian values are promoted well... (results) well above that of other schools nationally" Ofsted 2019*  
*Staff "strive to ensure that pupils are happy, while making education fun and enjoyable." Parent View 2018*



[www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk)



Shankhill School pupils, staff and governors have spent time reflecting upon what it means to be a Church of England Primary School. We would like to share our current work with you where we have explored what our **Vision, Values and Virtues** are and what they mean to each of us, as adults and children. Your views are strongly welcomed and we hope for a positive response to help us to reflect and evaluate fully, then plan actions for this academic year.

### What does it mean being a Church of England Primary School?

Whether you or your child have faith, a different faith or no faith, everyone is welcomed and included within our school family. This has been the case since the Church of England created Shankhill School in 1879 to serve the community and ensure a high quality education for all. The school remains a CofE school. Shankhill is a voluntary controlled Church of England School in the Diocese of Carlisle. Our successful and thriving school works in accordance with the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church, as required by the Trust Deed and the instrument of Governance as a Church of England School. Our vision and mission ensure that we are sensitive to the individual members of our school and wider community. We aim to support the academic, spiritual and character growth of every child respecting those of faith, those of other faiths and those of no faith. Everyone is welcomed and cherished.

Church Schools are recognised for their distinctive Christian ethos and the impact that this has on standards and all round education and character development. The proportions of Church Schools regarded as 'good' and 'outstanding' (by Ofsted) is much higher than the national norm and yet remain fully inclusive.

### What have we done?

Over the years, we have taken part in events throughout the county and within school learning more about being a Church School. We have revisited our School Vision, and Mission Statement and focused in on the six core values that shape learning and development throughout your child's education with us – see attached sheet. You may have experienced some of this during remote learning, joining in Collective Worships, and talking with your child. Your child may have shared some of their learning with you already, bringing home art work; sharing thoughts and ideas of spiritual and personal development and hopes for themselves, their family and the wider world; or telling you about eating doughnuts in our collective worship assembly.

### What do we mean by spirituality in Shankhill?

We have been exploring Spiritual Growth for a few years now as a way to learn about personal character development, positive mental health and well-being and to enable everyone to consider: **who we are, why we are here, and perhaps most importantly, what we might be. Enabling everyone to flourish and live life I all its fullness includes encouraging everyone to believe in their own potential, to be the best me I can be.**

We use the image of a ring doughnut to remind us of this type of learning. We imagine what spirituality means by pondering the question "Is a ring doughnut whole without the hole?" We explore how the hole is important even though we cannot touch it, it is there for a reason. We liken this to our inner voice, our spirituality, our moral compass, knowing when something is right or wrong, or if we should give up or if we really can have a go and be challenged. We call this: **ME Flourishing – My Spiritual Capacities** - our **VIRTUES**. Each virtue is a set of phrases that encourage character development, personal and spiritual growth and illustrates how we can act out one of our **values**.

In school, we have all been revisiting the language used to explore these virtues. Staff have incorporated these into weekly teaching and learning to ensure that all are explored regularly. We celebrate our virtues in action during Friday's celebration assembly.

This term, we are developing our doughnut displays through an art project with Abby from Artscool. We will invite you into school to see our final work soon.

We will continue to explore character education and personal development through our 'Spiritual Growth' work to support your child's whole education.

Our vision is everything you will see within our daily school life: all children and adults flourishing through the many opportunities and challenges they are presented with. We educate the whole child: for learning and as a person.

***Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.***  
*Enabling everyone to flourish and 'to live life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10)*

Our vision embraces the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of our children and community. We offer a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, which is explored through moral and creative learning experiences that support and shape the development, spiritual capacities and character of the whole child.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Comments
1)	The vision reflects Shankhill School's daily life.						
2)	Shankhill aims to provide an education based on academic and personal development.						
3)	Shankhill provides a range of opportunities for children to flourish academically and grow as a person.						

**Our Mission Statement:**

Within our ethos:

- Our school will develop in each child a respect for others and the distinctively Christian environment we all share, so that they may become responsible, well-rounded young people;
- School will be enjoyable within a caring atmosphere in which learning will be exciting, creative and inclusive.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Comments
4)	Shankhill's mission statement is shown in daily school life.						

***Our values: \* Wisdom \* Hope \* Community \* Dignity \* Peace \* Joy***

Throughout our learning, we explore the Christian values which permeate our vision for education. We share stories, explore and discuss local and world news and events, learn and reflect upon these values in collective worship so that we can learn what each value means to us and in our world.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Comments
5)	Shankhill's core values support the school's vision for education.						
6)	The six values help my child to learn how to grow as a person and as a learner.						
7)	My child receives a good education covering spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.						

**Our virtues:** These are how we learn to reflect upon **me**, and **my personal, character and spiritual development**. We learn about how each 'doughnut' links to a value and can help us to show, live and act out these qualities in our own life as we strive to '**be the best me I can be**'. They help us to become mentally strong, resilient, caring and responsible human beings who know and care for themselves as well as others, care for their surroundings and planet; who believe in themselves and know they can achieve new and great things, if they try.

## Virtues – My Spiritual Capacities

Be guided by my own beliefs and values. Be willing to take a stand to defend them.

Be curious and open minded when exploring life's BIG QUESTIONS.

Be willing to take risks and challenges.

Reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success.

Be intrigued by mystery and be open to an awareness of (the transcendent in the whole of life) the mysteries of life and religion

Know me—be self-aware

Understand and empathise with the experiences of others in school, the community and the wider world.



Be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made.

Forgive myself

Forgive others.

Show understanding of others..

Show generosity towards others

Appreciate and be thankful for what is good in the world

Be imaginative and creative.

Appreciate the beauty in the world.

Be alive to the experiences of 'awe and wonder'.

Love me, care for me. Believe in my potential to achieve and find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges. Be comfortable with stillness and silence. Be open to engage in reflection, meditation or prayer.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Comments
8)	Shankhill's Virtues support the school's vision for education.						
9)	Shankhill's Virtues help my child to learn how to grow as a person and as a learner.						
10)	My child's mental health and well-being is supported through learning that includes Shankhill's Virtues, PSHE, Collective Worship and the relationships between staff, pupils and families.						

11) What are the strengths of Shankhill School? What do we do well? What would you like or appreciate?	12) How can we improve? What could we do more of or introduce? How can we better support you and your child?

**Please return to school by Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**