



## Rural Church Schools Academy Trust Vision and Values

### **Mission Statement**

*Our Schools rejoice in their foundation as Church of England schools. The Christian ethos is both implicit and explicit in our practice, policies and procedures. Our Christian distinctiveness is evident everywhere; from the entrance, and the Bible verses displayed throughout the school, to the children's exemplary behaviour. Our values are based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and are theological and inclusive. They permeate the children's whole experience and are at the heart of our curriculum and school life in order for them to thrive in the wider world.*

*"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love that you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them" (Hebrews 6:10)*

**We are committed to nurturing all of our learners, children and adults, to develop their 'life in all its fullness' (John 10v10) including their knowledge, skills and most importantly the heart (beliefs, values, attitudes, positive habits and behaviours).**

**In our Trust our 'heart' is central and is integral to our moral and religious character. Collaboration is key to providing the best learning opportunities through a meaningful curriculum where children acquire the knowledge, skills and positive attitudes to prepare and strengthen them for their role in society: today, tomorrow and in the future.**

In putting this vision into practice we seek to maintain the following principles:

- To further develop, celebrate and maintain the Christian distinctiveness of all our schools.
- To ensure that our academies become centres of excellence, leading to high achievement for all pupils.
- To promote an educational community rooted in our Christian values that our pupils become independent, responsible, self-motivated and caring members of society.
- To promote structured mutual support which benefits those who work and learn in our academies.
- To identify and develop future leaders who will commit to using the best and latest research in child development and pedagogy in order to drive forward school effectiveness.
- To fulfil the particular vocation Church Schools have to be inclusive so that we open the doors of opportunity for the pupils and adults in our community.



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- To generate and strengthen the concept of school-to-school support through sharing skills and expertise and by making the most effective use of resources
- To grow our Trust in numbers and diversity – at all times maintaining and strengthening each member school’s own identity and sustainability.
- To ensure that all pupils have an excellent education, delivered in an environment that values each of them as an individual and creates aspirational opportunities for them.

### Our CHRIST values

Our vision is intentionally rooted in the Church of England’s Vision for Education (2016). The Church of England vision explores the principle of ‘life in all its fullness’ (John 10v10) through four strands: dignity, wisdom, life together and hope.

We aim to keep these intrinsic to our pursuit of excellence, enabling pupils, parents and staff of all faiths, and none, to flourish as a direct result of being part of our Trust.

Our vision is explored and expressed through our ‘CHRIST’ values:

#### Collaboration:

- Our belief that we are stronger together; as the Trust works closely as a family of schools we share in each other’s successes and failures, and bear one another’s burdens in pursuit of our common aims, as expressed in the metaphor of the church as the body of Christ.

*“1 Corinthians 12) <sup>12</sup>Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by <sup>13</sup>one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup>Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.” (1 Corinthians 12v11-14)*

- Our belief is that every member of our community has something to learn from every other member; and our collegiate structures fosters strong relationships and shared ownership of our vision and values.

#### Humility:

- Our belief that we have to give of ourselves in order to help others succeed, learning to negotiate and compromise for the benefit of the whole community.
- Our belief in the grace required to serve others, and allow ourselves to be served by others, as Jesus did in washing his disciples’ feet.

*“<sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” (John 13v14f-17)*

- Our belief that mistakes and failures are not the end of our contribution but the springboards for future learning and growth, and are experiences we must all reflect on, with the help of others.



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### Respect:

- Our belief in everyone's unique value and dignity, having been created by and in the image of God (Genesis 2), with individual gifts and talents, full of potential regardless of background.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

- Our belief in the importance and strength of positive and professional relationships with one another, at all levels, as the main factor developing the organization.
- Our belief that all our schools should have their own Head teacher/Principal, and fundamental respect for their role in leading and managing each school, for the benefit of the whole Trust.

### Inclusion:

- Our belief in seeing strength in our differences and working together to overcome barriers.
- Our belief that we have a duty to care for all.
- Our belief that through developing a deep sense of belonging at all levels within our Trust we open the door to new opportunities for growth and learning.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

### Stewardship –

- Our belief that we are called to develop our knowledge, skills, understanding, experience, gifts and talents in order to fulfil our own potential and to grow the Trust towards its aims
- Our belief that the Trust's finances should be shared fairly and transparently and used efficiently to further our strategic objectives whilst respecting our values.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2v15)

- Our belief that the time we deploy in one another's service is to be highly prized, along with opportunities for time spent re-filling the reservoirs of hope, energy and well-being.

### Trust –

- Our belief that it is imperative that every aspect of our organizational life is to be conducted to the highest standards of honesty, probity, reliability and professional integrity, in full compliance with all relevant statutory legislation.

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; **3** not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock." (1 Peter v2-3)

- Our belief that our values need to be communicated clearly and embodied consistently in the way we behave towards one another at all times.
- Our belief that in supporting each other we should always have an aspirational view of what is possible, alongside a careful consideration of what is sustainable.



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### **Responsibility and Accountability**

The Rural Church Schools Academy Trust is a family of schools bound together by:

- A commitment towards the common vision through embracing the core values
- A board of Directors that is committed to developing and strengthening a culture of collaboration
- A board of Directors that adheres to the legal responsibilities towards inspiring individual excellence for all learners across the Trust.