

At The Ellis C of E Primary School, all stakeholders- governors, staff and families- share the same theological vision for our children: to ensure they feel valued members of our Christian school community and are inspired **to be the best they can be** through our core values of High Aspiration, Love and Courage.

As a Church of England Primary School, as well as being the heart of the village of Hemingfield for nearly 200 years, our mission is to create a successful learning environment where everyone is inspired to reach their full potential and live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

The Ellis has always had very close links with St Mary's Church in Wombwell. We have a very strong and positive relationship with our Vicar, and enjoy his visits to the school on a weekly basis to lead acts of worship and host The Ellis Church, in school, on a monthly basis. We also regularly celebrate the major events in the Christian calendar at the church. Our vicar is an ex-officio member of the governors of The Ellis and several members of the church congregation have served as school governors, all making a valuable contribution to the life of the school.

High Aspiration

The Ellis has ambitious aims and big ideas, inspired by the knowledge our teaching is to the glory of God and for learners who can be transformed 'from glory to glory' (2 Corinthians 3:18). 'God's glory is an overflow of the divine life, holiness and love' (Church of England Vision for Education, p.12) that reaches out to classrooms and the school environment. The impact of this is the place of creativity in the life of the school: 'if human beings are in God's image, then they too can be creative' (Church of England Vision for Education, p.12).

We encourage our children to have high expectations and to 'believe they can', through developing a growth mindset and challenging any sense of limitation. As Paul said in his letter to the Phillipians, 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me' (Philippians 4:13 ESV)

Courage

The Ellis endorses children trying new things and pushing themselves to step out of comfort zones in order to flourish. Children advocate for worthy causes and champion what they believe in. The school also encourages the making of right choices. The school reflects the parable of two roads, where the narrower and more difficult choice may be the one that leads to life (Matthew 7:13-14). To support this, much emphasis is placed on the importance of good learning behaviours and children are encouraged to be ready to learn.

In a manner reflecting the wisdom literature and the puzzling over life in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, the school also promotes the inquisitiveness of thinking minds – a wisdom of Solomon at Hemingfield.

Love

When it sees a cause for celebrating, the Ellis celebrates. Our daily worship brings us together as a school community and family and our **Gold** awards assembly celebrates our great learning and achievements every week.

The school uses the language of 'gold' to develop a sense of precious learning behaviours and activities. Like the Psalmists' description of the teachings and decisions of God as 'more desirable than the finest gold; they are sweeter than the purest honey' (Psalm 19:10), the school symbolises the precious nature of goodness and quality in education.

Just as the Old Testament speaks of the refining of gold - 'Fire tests gold and silver; a person's reputation can also be tested' (Proverbs 27:21) - the school sees itself as part of the production of 'the best you can be'. In this way, the school affirms 'the essential importance to human worth of fellow human beings, human community and the whole created world of which we are part.' (Church of England Vision for Education, p.8)

The school affirms that 'the ultimate worth of each person is grounded in being created in the image of God and in God's love and compassion (Church of England Vision for Education, p.9) and, on this basis, The Ellis seeks to develop the character of its children and to promote positive self-esteem. Thus, the school promotes education for community and living well together. The Ellis prioritises key values of listening and honesty, recognising that the former involves more than just hearing the sound of the voice (Mark 4:23) and the latter needs to be life-enhancing in its attitude towards others (Psalm 25:21; Proverbs 11:4). The school also encourages children to be 'guided by honesty' (Proverbs 11:3); recognises that 'Jesus embodies the love and compassion of God for each person' (Church of England Vision for Education, p.11); and that 'he paid special attention to those who are often disadvantaged, excluded, despised or feared' (Church of England Vision for Education, p.11). The Ellis is an inclusive school and seeks to inscribe its inclusivity into the very language it uses (e.g. 'Time out' is 'reflection time'). Nurture and the well-being of all is at the heart of our school, our children are encouraged to love one another and accept difference and individuality.