

Trinity Croft CE Primary Theological Rationale

At Trinity Croft our Christian vision is to provide children with an understanding of the Christian faith and an awareness of what it means to be a Christian and give praise to God; Father, Son and the Holy Spirit whilst supporting them in an understanding and respect for other faiths and cultures. Ours is a “vision of an education that is at once deeply Christian in its inspiration and healthily plural in its operation is consistent with the best in our history.”¹

Through this vision we’re

- growing through inspiration, learning about God’s world
- reflecting God, by showing compassion
- respecting one another in a spirit of inclusion
- running life’s race with courage and perseverance
- becoming what we’re meant to be, through hope and aspiration

Inspiration

At Trinity Croft we will offer children an opportunity to grow through inspired learning “We understand Jesus to be the Word of God, the self-expression and self-giving of God, who relates to the whole of creation (John 1:1-5; Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 1:8-10). This sets the horizon for education that looks to him, seeking truth and wisdom in relation to all reality – areas of knowledge and know-how, religions, cultures, the sciences, the arts and crafts, economics, law, politics, and more.”²

This is God’s good world and our vision for education is of one that broadens children’s horizons and opens their eyes to the inspiration that is waiting for them in their learning. We motivate and engage children through an inspiring and rich curriculum dedicated to developing confident, knowledgeable and resilient learners who can achieve the best possible outcomes in both school and their wider lives. To this end, our school also enriches children’s lives by fostering strong and welcoming partnerships between school, parents, church and the wider community.

Compassion

Relationships are at the heart of our vision and success as a school and we reflect the image of God described in the Church of England’s Vision for Education: “The God of wisdom, love, compassion and peace, in whose image we are created, is utterly relational.”³

At Trinity Croft, we look to develop young people with kind hearts, *firm in our belief that* compassion, kindness and care are at the core of good human nature and are the basis for successful futures and positive relationships. The values we communicate to children and the way we conduct the school are based on that foundation of compassion: in setting this vision for our children, we follow Christ’s command to his followers to reflect a compassionate God, commanding: “Be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.”⁴

As the Church of England Vision states: “The centrality of relationships in education is inspired by our conviction that the love Jesus taught and lived is at the heart of reality.”⁵

Such compassion is expressed in the prayer of St Theresa of Avila:

Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks Compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

¹ Church of England Vision for Education p.4

² Church of England Vision for Education p.9

³ Church of England Vision for Education p.8

⁴ Luke 6:36 nb. translation

⁵ Church of England Vision for Education p.11

Inclusion

Trinity Croft provides an inclusive environment. Alongside the Church of England's Vision for Education we affirm Christ's offer of a vision of "life as part of the family of a God who is fully inclusive in loving"⁶ citing his vision of God 'making the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sending rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous' (Matthew 5:45). We are inspired by this vision of Christ, and of the early Church, and the way they "broke down barriers of exclusion and division and declared God's people are united in Christ." Like our ancestors in the faith, we see this effective, inclusive vision as being grounded in respect, and we believe in upholding high levels of respect for all, where everyone is valued and appreciated. In this we reflect the ethos of the Christian gospel that broke down the barriers of the day, affirming: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."⁷

At Trinity Croft, "The ultimate worth of each person is grounded in being created in the image of God and in God's love and compassion for each."⁸

Courage and Perseverance

In a number of places, St Paul encourages believers with images of life as being akin to an athletic race⁹ that requires perseverance and courage. A Christian vision for these character qualities inspires our work at Trinity Croft. We believe that everyone should have the ability and desire to persevere and that children should be taught to be brave and have the strength to be their own person in an environment where failure is deemed as useful for future success. With an ear to God's words to Joshua, we seek to inspire a courage that will press on in adversity and through fears: "Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, am with you wherever you go."¹⁰

Our gospel of hope meets our children in their adversity and challenges and inspires them to aim high when things get tough. As the Church of England Vision puts it: "Even while involved in much difficulty, disappointment, failure, suffering and even tragedy, our trust and hope in Jesus inspires perseverance, patience, gratitude, openness to surprises, and celebration."¹¹

Educating for Hope and Aspiration

At Trinity Croft, we believe in our children and their amazing potential. Our message to them echoes the letter of John: "Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed."¹² To this end, reflecting on our life as a school we recognise the need to place the highest store upon creating an environment, which is aspirational, providing the opportunity to grow through high expectations. We foster a culture of high aspiration where children recognise their own self-worth and have knowledge of the wider opportunities available to them, both now and in the future.

"Good schools open up horizons of hope and aspiration, and guide pupils into ways of fulfilling them."¹³ That's Trinity Croft.

⁶ Church of England Vision for Education p.11

⁷ Galatians 3:28 NRSV

⁸ Church of England Vision for Education p.9

⁹ 1 Corinthians 9:24; Galatians 5:7; Philippians 3:14; 2 Timothy 4:7

¹⁰ Joshua 1:9 – note discussions of context

¹¹ Church of England Vision for Education p.10

¹² 1 John 3:2a

¹³ Church of England Vision for Education p.7