



Our vision at St Mary's, as we continue on our journey to outstanding – is **Aspiring to Greatness!** We have unpicked what this means with staff, governors and the children. On the following two pages, you will see how our vision is lived. The first list was formulated by staff and governors; the second shows how we have presented it to the children.

These expectations are constantly revisited by all staff in the school. We ask that you take some time to talk through these with your child at home, supporting us in ensuring that these are met.

Below are some reflections from our children on our vision and the importance of high expectations:

*Our school vision helps me to be focused in achieving all my goals and be the best version of myself. It also makes me a kinder person to others.*

Elda in Y6

*Our vision to aspire to greatness helps me to achieve the maximum in all my subjects and never give up when we face hard questions. It makes us grow into great human beings and to care for each other.*

– Nathan Y6

*Aspiring to greatness means to do your best and be kind to everyone. You should always help out when you have the chance and respect everyone. You bring it with you throughout your life.*

James in Y5

*Our school value is about aspiring to greatness. This teaches me to try my best in everything I do, even if I get it wrong the first time. I will always keep on trying until I get it right.*

Emily in Y5

## What do high expectations look like?

### Outstanding teachers with high expectations:

- ✓ Focus on learning, not behaviour
- ✓ Have high and challenging standards of learning
- ✓ Understand precisely the ability level of their students
- ✓ Continually assess students' learning throughout the lesson to ensure that teaching objectives are being met
- ✓ Have structured, collaborative group work which improves students' communication and dialogue and increases students' motivation
- ✓ When marking, they give clear guidance on how to improve
- ✓ Workbooks are neatly presented, organised and made up of completed tasks that demonstrate a range of taught, differentiated activities. Books are free of graffiti and students are proud of them
- ✓ Promote self-control and positive behaviour; independence and sensitivity to others; social values and attitudes; attendance, punctuality and appropriate dress (partly by modelling it themselves)
- ✓ Use routines and procedures so students are aware of what to expect and how to behave without having to be told
- ✓ Develop students' higher order thinking skills through the use of questioning
- ✓ Include a range of activities to develop critical thinking
- ✓ Utilise a range of different styles of learning
- ✓ Set tasks that extend beyond the classroom and that encourage independence
- ✓ Celebrate success and achievements; sharing a sense of pride
- ✓ Are relentless in sharing and instilling a limitless approach to learning
- ✓ Are organised and prepared for lessons (modelling the importance of this for the children)
- ✓ Promote a growth mindset
- ✓ Share the why/the reasons/the shared vision
- ✓ Aware of and have high *hidden/subconscious* expectations
- ✓ Consistent approach to high expectations – staff and children
- ✓ Ensure that children understand the need for these skills in life/the world



**In our vision at St. Mary's, we are Aspiring to  
Greatness!**

*To be outstanding, we must set ourselves the highest of  
expectations*

**We will lead by example in our school community  
and live out the Gospel values of Jesus**

**We will come to school ready to learn, be punctual  
and have a positive attitude to learning**

**We will take the utmost pride in our appearance  
and in the presentation of our learning**

**We will try our best in everything we do,  
and be open to new ideas, in order to challenge ourselves**

**We will value feedback from others in order to improve  
and possess a growth mindset (I can't YET!)**

**We will value collaboration, listen attentively  
and foster a curiosity for learning by asking questions**

**We will celebrate our successes and those of others,  
and learn from each other in order to grow**

**We will make connections between what we are learning and why,  
in school and life in the wider world**

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