



# St Mark's C.E. Primary School

Queens Road

Farnborough

Hampshire

GU14 6DU

Tel: (01252)544155 ~ Fax: (01252)513712

Headteacher: Miss Vicky Ellis

Email: adminoffice@st-marks.hants.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

When I started at St Mark's I set out to understand the school. I remember saying to staff during our INSET day in September, that I had no intention of changing the ethos, vision and values of the school. However, after my first half term, it became evident that the vision currently stated on the website is outdated. It does not reflect the current community the school serves, nor what we strive to achieve for the children who attend St Mark's.

The whole staff met during our October INSET day, with a Governor in attendance to reflect on our vision and values, discuss the school's hopes and intentions for the future and what we aspire to accomplish in the years to come. Following this, we have collectively re-written and modernised our vision. This has now been presented to and agreed by the Full Governing Body and will be used to set the strategic direction of all future school decisions.

## Current Vision

The mission of St. Mark's Church of England School is to provide quality teaching and promote independent learning within a happy and caring Christian atmosphere; where each individual will develop a greater respect for themselves, others and their environment.

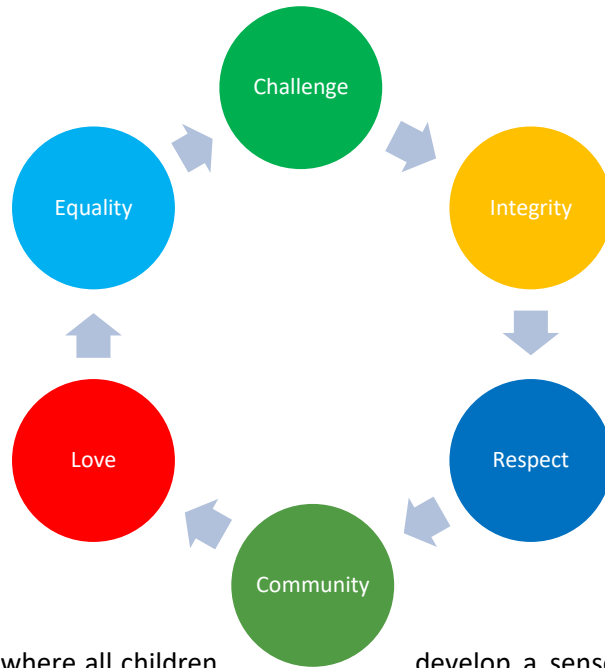
## New Updated Vision

**St. Mark's CE Primary School is a welcoming community where children develop a lifelong love of learning and sense of belonging, within a nurturing and inclusive Christian environment. All children have the opportunity to become free thinking, responsible citizens, whilst understanding and appreciating the wonder of our world. They leave St Mark's with the confidence to live fulfilling lives, and respond with flexibility to an ever changing world.**

## Values

Our values outline and communicate the school's philosophy and aspirations, in addition to providing the whole school community with a common language to bring the vision to life.

Our Christian **CIRCLE Values** are extremely well embedded at St Mark's, they run through everything we do and the children can articulate them clearly.



Being a welcoming community where all children develop a sense of belonging, within an inclusive environment is central to our vision. It is vital that children leave St Mark's with respect, understanding and tolerance of each other's needs and differences.

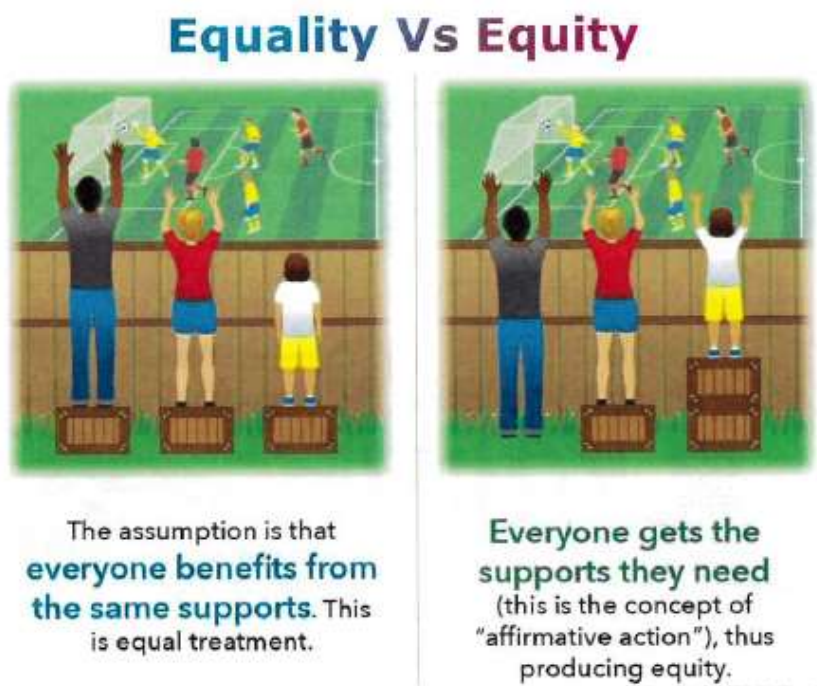
As a staff and Governing Body, we discussed the following image.

### What do you see here?



The E in our [CIRCLE Values](#), currently stands for Equality. Equality means that everyone is treated the same. In a school context, this would assume that all children benefit from the same support to reach the same common goal. This is neither realistic, nor how we would want to operate within school or in a wider context. At St Mark's, we accept children at their current stage of development; whether academically, socially, emotionally or physically. We have high aspirations for all children but do not, and cannot, expect the exact same from every child. We aim to provide children with what they need, which is not necessarily the same thing. For example, some children need glasses to read but this does not mean we give all children in a classroom glasses. With this in mind, we are changing the E in our CIRCLE Values to [Equity](#). We will be

communicating this to the children with the aim of increasing understanding, acceptance and tolerance of others' needs. The image below is a fantastic starting point to explain this.



This term, we have also been re-introducing our Learning Values to ensure these are as embedded and understood by the children as well as our CIRCLE Values are.

The Learning Values also support our vision.

Thinking

Independence

Interdependence

Spirituality

Creativity

They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment that prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens. These values drive our curriculum and are developed progressively during the time the children are at St Mark's.

The staff and Governing Body believe the updated school vision and revised value reflect the work we are currently undertaking at St Mark's, both in the here and now, and as we look to the future for the children in our care.

There is always work to be done and areas to develop in any school, and St Mark's is no exception. Our unique integrated curriculum and mixed year classes add a different dimension to our school. Since our last Ofsted in 2012, the framework has changed significantly and presents challenges to all schools, particularly with regards

to curriculum. As a staff, our focus and attention for the remainder of the year will be the curriculum, ensuring this supports our vision and offers a broad and balanced experience to all children, throughout their journey with us.

As ever, we thank you for your ongoing support of the school.

‘Living and learning together’

Best wishes

Miss Ellis

Headteacher

*‘We know that in all things God works for good with those who live him, those whom he has called according to his purpose.’ Romans 8:28*

