

## Vision and values - Theological underpinning

At Esher Church School, our vision and values are at the heart of all we do. Rooted in the Christian values of **community**, **wisdom**, and **courage**, we aspire to grow in kindness, learn with confidence, and make a difference in the world.

Our vision reflects our understanding of God as love as commanded by Jesus Himself in **John 13:34**: *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

This verse serves as the overarching principle that underpins all of our values. It calls us to love, first and foremost, and it is through this anchoring love that we are able to develop our values of **community**, **wisdom**, and **courage**. These values provide a framework for how we live and learn at Esher Church School.

Our vision and values are representative of a collaborative effort, involving the voices of our entire community—staff, volunteers, governors, parents and children. This inclusive process allowed us to create a vision that truly reflects our shared beliefs and values, grounded in Christian teachings.

### 1. Community (Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2:41-52)

At Esher Church School, we understand that we cannot fully live as human beings on our own. We are called to live in community, where collaboration, compassion, and reconciliation are prioritised.

This story illustrates the love and care that Mary and Joseph show for Jesus when they search for him, reflecting the nurturing environment we foster at Esher Church School. It also highlights the importance of community both within the family and the wider community as Jesus learns from the teachers in the temple. Just as Jesus grew in wisdom and understanding through his interactions with others, we at Esher Church School recognise the importance of learning together and supporting one another as a community, ensuring that every person feels valued and included.

### 2. Wisdom (Solomon's Request for Wisdom – 1 Kings 3:4-15)

When given the opportunity to ask God for anything, Solomon chose wisdom above wealth or power. His wisdom enabled him to rule with justice and discernment, making decisions that benefitted others. At Esher Church School, we encourage our children to develop wisdom through learning, curiosity and critical thinking. We embrace mistakes as part of the learning process and empower our pupils to apply their knowledge with confidence, knowing that wisdom is about making good choices and seeking understanding.

### 3. Courage (David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 17)

David's courage in facing Goliath reminds us that bravery is not about size or strength but about having faith, resilience and determination. At Esher Church School, we encourage our children to be courageous in their learning and relationships, to stand up for what is right, to embrace challenges, and to face difficulties with confidence and perseverance. We believe that courage enables us to make a difference in the world, to challenge inequalities, and to be strong members of both our local and global community.

Our vision and values shape the way we learn, play, and grow together as a school family. We seek to create an environment where every child feels valued, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential. Through love, community, wisdom, and courage, we prepare our pupils not just for academic success but for lives of purpose, kindness, and service to others.