

Mellor St Mary Vision Statement 2024 - 2037

(reviewed September 2024)



For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37)

The Church of England's vision of education Deeply Christian, Serving the common good (2026) states 'Good schools open up horizons of hope and aspiration and guide pupils into ways of fulfilling them... rooted in God's love and compassion for all people and for the whole of creation.' Therefore, as a Church school our main purpose is to:

- Educate for Wisdom, Knowledge & Skills
- Educate for Hope & Aspiration
- Educate for Community & Living Well Together
- Educate for Dignity and Respect

Our Vision

Our overarching vision at Mellor St Mary is:

Through our Christian Faith, we acknowledge our responsibility to all, to enrich lives and show love and respect within our school family.

We believe in lifelong learning aiming to equip our children to live life today and for tomorrow rooted in Christian love.

For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37)

In addition to our Vision, our school was created with specific mission to support the education and faith development children in our local community. It was built on the notion that we are like a church; a beacon of light to which our families and local community can turn to for light, shelter, hope, education and love. It is rooted in Matthew 16:18 and reflects our ability to bring Jesus into the lives of our families through our curriculum, enrichments and community engagement projects.

Our school is the church on the hill;

the light that brings Jesus into the lives of all in our community.

Upon this rock I will build my church (Matthew 16:18)

This vision underpins and drives our school curriculum aims to ensure each and every child can 'live life in all its fullness' by offering stimulating and awe-inspiring learning experiences with Christian values at its heart.

By modelling the values given to us by Christ and by developing individual and collaborative learning experiences, a positive growth mind set, a sense of responsibility and challenges that take them beyond the classroom, our children will;

Develop their heads and bodies : What they learn;

Develop their hearts and character: Who they are;

Develop their actions and attitudes: How they live and learn;

Develop their moral compass: Where they fit in the world.

Leading them to becoming caring, compassionate, responsible and thoughtful innovators, creators and improvers. As confident risk-takers, problem solvers and writers they will aspire to be the best they can be in whatever paths they have decided to take. They will be pursuers of excellence for themselves now and for their future selves as well as for the world.

Core Christian Values

These are taken from the values which Jesus and his Mother Mary showed throughout their lives, particularly Mary whom our school is named after.



Compassion (Galatians 6:2)

Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ.

To inspire children to show sympathy for others in school and for those in the local and global communities.

Courage (1 Corinthians 16:13-14)

Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love

To teach our children to face challenges, developing empathy, resilience and self-confidence, whilst standing up for what they believe is right for themselves and others.

Kindness (2 Corinthians 6:6)

By our purity, knowledge, patience, and kindness we have shown ourselves to be God's servants--by the Holy Spirit, by our true love,

To encourage our children to treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves and to care for all God has given us in creation.

Humility (1 Peter 3v8)

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

To foster a community where we are humble and no one is better than another.

Joy (1 Thessalonians 2:20)

Indeed, you are our pride and our joy!

To develop a love of learning and celebrate all that God has given us: the physical world, our human potential and our spiritual calling.

Responsibility (Proverbs 22: 6)

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

To teach our children to feel accountable to each other and to the world, considering the consequences of their actions in the short and long term.

Love (Colossians 3:14)

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

To develop love and hope, based on God's love for all through Christ, and to develop friendships, welcoming supporting and loving each other, celebrating the gifts and talents of all.

Background

Mellor St Mary was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2025 and was deemed to be a 'good' school with element of outstanding.

Our last SIAMS inspection took place in February 2020. The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Mellor St Mary were deemed to be outstanding. The inspector noted that the strong Christian leadership of the Headteacher was supported by staff and governors. Relationships at all levels were deemed to be exceptional and rooted in our core Christian values. It was noted that the school is highly proactive in its approach to the pastoral care of children and families.

As a school we are proud of our achievements. Over the past ten years we have worked hard to enhance the overall learning environment. This has led to:

- New reception and main entrance area (Summer 2017)
- Upgraded wifi and server system (December 2018)
- New Outside classroom (Summer 2018 and upgraded in 2025)
- New fencing all around school to ensure the grounds are safe (Summer 2018, 19)
- A new kitchen (Summer 2023)
- New outside play gym equipment (Summer 2024)
- New blinds in the hall and classrooms (Spring 2025)
- Refurbishment of Class 4 flooring (Summer 2025)
- Redeveloped EYFS area (Summer 2026)

Our passion and resolve in ensuring that the children of Mellor St Mary have a school building, fit for purpose has meant that we are more equipped for education in the 21st century. Of course, funding such projects and will continue to be a challenge moving forward.

It is now time to look forward to the next ten years – recognising our journey over the last ten, this document sets out a vision for the future for our school. It sets out what could be achieved in the short and long term. We want to provide a ‘world class’ education in an environment that is forward thinking, built on success, inclusivity and one which equips children for the future.

We want Mellor St Mary to be a school of choice in the community.

We need to be visionary in how we increase numbers on roll – ideally to become a single form entry school. This in itself will increase our financial capacity and help aid our vision. The vision sets out endpoints that we will strive for. It is important to have a strategic overview for the future however, as recent events have taught us (a global pandemic for anyone reviewing this in 2030) you never know what is around the corner!

Governance

Aim: We will continue to develop and evolve as a dynamic governing body.

Governors at Mellor St Mary care about our school and children. They ask difficult questions, accept responsibility for key decisions and challenge the school in order to raise standards. Governors will be instrumental in supporting and driving our ambitions and have agreed a clear vision for the school that is regularly reviewed.

How will we do this?

- Ensure that governors on appointment have relevant skills and training to support the work of the school.
- Governors to actively work on developing a vision for the future that is understood, shared and regularly reviewed.
- Governors have clear financial priorities to aid the development of this vision.
- Ensure that Governors are proactive in supporting the school.
- Governors are aware of succession planning to develop excellent governance.

Leadership & Staffing

Aim: We will be recognised as a forward looking school leading teachers and children in developing a unique, creative learning environment.

For any school to be successful it needs to have a strong leadership team who have a clear vision and sense of purpose. At Mellor St Mary we want to provide the best possible teachers for our children. We shall encourage teaching and support staff to develop themselves professionally through a range of professional development opportunities. This will not solely be based on course attendance. Instead, we want Mellor St Mary to be a school that utilises the latest pedagogy, where suitable for our purposes, and adapt this for our pupils and school. We will therefore seek to learn from best practice elsewhere.

How we will do this?

- Increase leadership capacity through promoting NPQ's national accredited programmes that will specifically allow curriculum innovation.
- Support staff at all levels in their professional development and monitor closely the impact of the initiatives we pursue.
- Grow leaders for the future and empower our teaching staff to actively seek promotion as part of our succession planning.
- The senior leadership team will monitor closely the impact of the initiatives we pursue.
- It is recognised that to achieve this we must invest in time for professionals to achieve such goals.
- We also recognise the important role that our support staff have in school and that professional development opportunities are equally important for them. We want our support staff to make an even greater impact on pupil learning.

Curriculum Design

Aim: Our curriculum will constantly evolve to reflect the needs of our pupils.

Over the last few years our curriculum has continued to evolve through us taking increased local ownership of what is taught.

The curriculum has become richer, more engaging and exciting. We aim for our children to fully engage in learning that stretches and excites their imagination leading them to be ambitious, reflective and imaginative. They will leave Mellor St Mary with a confident set of skills, knowledge, norms and Christian values.

As we look forward, we recognise that we can further enhance the richness of learning – not just by learning different things, but by learning in different ways. We recognise that the classroom is only a small part of a child's development.

How will we do this?

We will move forward with the continued development of:

- A curriculum grounded in developing key skills in English and Mathematics based on research that is adapted to the needs of our pupils
- Expand external play provision through new equipment and training so children are physically active throughout the day
- Develop external worship and reflection areas around the school grounds which will support children's awareness of the protection of God's World and promote climate sustainability
- Develop sensory areas to support mental health and wellbeing
- Develop our enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities
- Develop opportunities in the wider community with Village Hall, Church and local community groups.

Our curriculum will continue to be designed to provide every opportunity for children to engage, be enthused and motivated to learn.

Digital Technology

Aim: Pupils at Mellor St Mary will be digitally literate.

We will continue to prepare pupils for the fast changing digital world that they inhabit from an early age, in a safe and secure way. We recognise that harnessing technology to enhance teaching and one to one learning for pupils, both in and out of school, will enable children to learn smarter, express their creativity through digital technology and provide greater opportunities to differentiate learning experiences where learner's needs are better understood and met.

How will we do this?

- Continued investment (through a rolling programme) in IT hardware and software to meet the needs of pupils and staff.
- Identification that computing is a specialist subject and should be treated as such in terms of how it is led and managed – employment of specialist staff.
- Investment in staff training.
- Harness the power of remote learning to increase learning opportunities outside of the school day.

Pupils and the community

Aim: At Mellor St Mary pupils are risk takers, problem solvers and writers. They are pursuers of excellence and aspire to be the best they can be.

How will we do this?

- Continue to develop 'growth mind-sets' amongst pupils
- Ensure that our curriculum is based on sound knowledge progression
- Approach learning through enquiry, curiosity and creativity – children will take risks and make mistakes – in doing so they will develop independence
- Encourage collaboration with others
- Ensure that our curriculum enables pupils to make links with the world, their place and responsibilities within it and a belief in the power to change and enhance lives.
- Encourage children to be articulate, fluent and effective communicators able to express their understanding and be open to other ideas.
- Continue to develop parental engagement to support this aim.

Mellor St Mary as a Faith Community/Church School

Aim: Pupils are happy and enjoy coming to school. They leave us academically, socially and spiritually well equipped. Mellor St Mary is recognised as an outstanding Church school in the local community.

At Mellor St Mary we believe that the foundation of school life is our Christian ethos. Our core values are central to all we do. We will continue to have high expectations of behaviour, manners and respect of all pupils – as these are rooted in the values that we teach and are the result of a successful partnership between home, school and the Parish community. We will continue to recognise each child as a unique gift from God with individual talents, whether it be sporting, creative, artistic or academic talent. We will endeavour to continue to develop a learning environment that both nurtures and provides opportunities for such talents to be recognised and celebrated. The creative arts and extra-curricular provision are fundamental to this aim. At Mellor St Mary our school character will continue to be vibrant, where there is an overwhelming belief that everything is possible with God and success can be achieved by all.

How will we do this?

We shall:

- Continue to develop and work in close partnership with our United Benefice church community, clergy and the diocese family as a whole.
- Develop reflection areas (both indoor and outdoors)
- Express and celebrate our faith in creative ways
- Continue to develop links with other schools, locally, nationally and globally
- Ensure that pupil mental health and well-being is at the forefront of our minds and provide support where needed.

Achievement

Aim: Mellor St Mary will be in the top 10% of all similar primary schools (nationally) in terms of attainment.

Crucial to the success of any school is the quality of learning and teaching. We will continue to focus on standards and personalised learning and we will ensure every child reaches their educational potential.

How will we do this?

- English and Mathematics will be a constant priority of the school.
- Close monitoring and evaluation will play a major role in helping raise standards even further. This will be supported by the Deputy Headteacher who shall take a lead role in this area.
- Pupil tracking and target setting will be key to developing personalised learning.

- We shall continue to work closely with parents as we recognise the important role that they have to play in their child's educational journey.
- Timely intervention, where needed, will continue to support gaps in learning and will be delivered by highly trained staff.
- We shall utilise digital technology to enhance learning opportunities both in and out of school.

Buildings

Aim: We will enhance the outdoor learning environment that enables continuous learning. It will feature designed spaces for a formal and informal personalised curriculum that stimulates spirituality, prayer and creative thinkers.

We will continue to have a planned programme of maintenance for our school buildings.

We will ensure 'best value' in procurement and that we have a staff team able to support this vision.

Over the last ten years we have worked hard to enhance our school buildings. We have provided an environment that is both pleasant to work in and conducive to learning in the 21st century. This has been achieved through careful budget management and support from our Diocese. However, it is recognised that we now have to continue this momentum through a carefully planned schedule of ongoing work. We will need to ensure that we can sustainably manage this process – and through 'best value' identify how strategically such work should be procured.

How will we do this?

- Through clear financial planning we will develop outdoor provision (see above – curriculum design).
- We will strategically look at how we can cost effectively maintain and further develop school buildings in an affordable manner.
- Working with our architects we will develop a renewed asset management plan with clear milestones.

Action Plan Priorities

1. Refurbishment of all children's toilet areas – starting with KS2
2. Refurbishment of adult toilets including relocation of disabled toilet
3. Refurbishment of the hall – ceiling and flooring
4. Refurbishment of Art room flooring and storage
5. Refurbishment of the IT suite

Area	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2031-32	2032-33	2034-35	2036-37
Number of Pupils on Roll	140	144	139	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
Governance	Appoint 2 x foundation governors 1 x Staff Gov & 1 x Parent Gov		Appoint 2 x foundation governors 1 x Staff Gov & 1 x Parent Gov				Appoint 2 x foundation governors 1 x Staff Gov & 1 x Parent Gov			
	Vision and Skills Audit			Vision and Skills Audit			Vision and Skills Audit			Vision and Skills Audit
Leadership & Staffing	Restructured to full mixed classes	Restructure to single core learning KS1								
			Subject Leaders Release							
Curriculum Design -Physical Environment	Outside classroom repairs and Gardens redeveloped	Extend outside gym equipment	EYFS outside classroom redesign	Forest School /Pond Area redeveloped	KS2 Yard line markings	Outdoor Trim Trail (Field)	Gardens redeveloped			
	Library books replenished		Classroom reading corners replenished				Classroom reading corners replenished			
		Develop Sensory Areas outside KS1		Develop Sensory Areas outside KS2						
			Reading outside designated areas to be established		External Worship / Ampitheatre for Creative Arts (Field)					
Digital Technology	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment	IT Hardware/ software Investment
Curriculum Content	Annual Review	Annual Review	Annual Review	Annual Review	Annual Review	Annual Review	Annual Review	Annual Review	Annual Review	Annual Review
Faith School	Develop cluster Links	SIAMS Develop Global links	Focus on Prayer inside and outside		Outdoor Worship Area (Ampitheatre)		SIAMS			

