

Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist School

Vision - January 2024

Let your Light Shine

All different, all valued, all loving,
learning and *shining* together.

At Lowe's Wong Junior School, we offer a safe and happy place where a love of life and learning is nurtured and everyone is valued. We are inclusive and welcoming to those of all faiths and none as we embrace uniqueness and aim to develop curious, compassionate and creative individuals who have the confidence to thrive, flourish and aspire to great things in an ever-changing world by shining brightly.

Our vision is rooted in the Christian understanding of God as He created and loves everyone as unique individuals. He wants us to enjoy, love and care for his world and each other, following the example of Jesus. It is underpinned by the teaching of Jesus in Matthew's gospel,

*"**You are the light of the world.** A city cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on a stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"*

Matthew 5:14-16

With love at the heart of our community, we want everyone to shine through our 6 school values:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Kindness
- Thankfulness
- Forgiveness
- Perseverance

Our school stands on a hill, over-looking our town, and just as a beacon inspires and encourages, we want everyone to act as beacons, spreading streams of love, joy and peace and shining within our own school community, our homes and families, the wider community of Southwell, our country and our world. We encourage everyone to be a light to others, so they can make a positive difference today and in the future.

As an Anglican Methodist school, we are rooted in the heritage of John Wesley who, 'Like a burning brand', was plucked from his house fire and later became the founder of the Methodist movement as his heart was 'strangely warmed' by the Holy Spirit. Just as he shone, our vision is for everyone to celebrate their uniqueness and go on to shine and flourish as they aspire to fulfil their potential.

We are mindful that the core of Jesus' ministry was God's heart of love to bring dignity and restoration to every human being, regardless of culture, disability, sex, language, racial origin, religious belief and sexual orientation. As Paul wrote, 'You are all one in Christ Jesus' (Galations 3:28) and so we aim to mirror this example of positivity, inclusivity, forgiveness and love within our school community and beyond.

Our values were chosen by our school community and are at the core of everything we do. Weaving through our school life like a thread and guiding us in our decision making and actions, they enable us to live out our vision.

Putting our values into action, we strive to grow children who echo our Methodist heritage in the sentiments of John Wesley:

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

(John Wesley 1703-1792)

Our vision of, 'Loving, learning and *shining* together,' underpins all that we do and helps provide an environment in which all can flourish and shine academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. We aim for each child to be the best version of themselves, by living out our school values, so they may experience, 'life in all its fullness.' We want our children to seek and find contentment and to lead rich and satisfying lives, full of choice, aspiration, hope and happiness, echoing Jesus' words, "I have come that you may have life- life in all its fullness" John 10:10.

Our vision is also found in the following quote which recognises the individuality and uniqueness of everyone to be the best version of themselves.

*"Whether you are a candle in the corner of a room or a beacon on the top of a hill,
Let your light shine!"*

Reflecting John Wesley's love of music, singing forms an important part of our worship and wider school life. The song, 'Love Shine a Light' by Katrina and the Waves has long been a favourite in our school and whilst it isn't distinctly Christian, its sentiments support our vision brilliantly!

Our vision introduction

Our School vision is based in the Christian narrative of Jesus' teaching in the 'Sermon on the Mount' and in particular, the symbolism of shining a light by the individuals who together make up our wonderful school community. To sum up our vision for our children and school community, we have adopted the phrase, 'All loving, learning and shining together!', which is underpinned by the verse from Matthew's gospel, 'Let your light shine before others...'

The Sermon on the Mount

"Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them..."

"You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead, it is put on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven".

Bible extract: Matthew 5:16

'...let your light shine before others, so that they will see the good things you do...'

Our vision encourages our children to show the world how wonderful they are, in both the good character and values they display and in their unique qualities and talents. It acknowledges that the strength in our school community is in understanding and nurturing what makes the children, staff and parents unique and in developing individual success and enabling all to shine.

We are all successful in different ways: some of us are brilliant writers, some are superb mathematicians, some are super scientists, and some are fantastic musicians, artists, designers, historians, geographers, sports people, and dancers.

But the most important thing is that we know that each and every one of us is valued and has something special to offer our community and our world; that by bringing our individual successes and talents together we can work as one for a brighter future.

Our role is to enable our pupils and our community to shine their amazing light so that they flourish and 'live life to the full.'
