

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY ISLINGTON

MISSION, VISION, PRINCIPLES

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to create an inspirational community of learning and achievement that will make a positive contribution to community cohesion in Islington. This learning community will be rooted in Christian values, providing outstanding educational opportunities and experiences that will enable all students – regardless of age, ability and background to reach beyond themselves, to bring out the best in themselves and to make a difference to the world that they are growing up in and shape.

OUR MOTTO AND ASPIRATION

Our motto will be '*Reaching Beyond Ourselves*'. This encapsulates our belief that schools should help young people to stretch themselves to the full and to reach out to others at local, national and international levels in understanding, friendship and service.

VISION

This will be a Church of England sponsored Academy and the educational vision for the Academy is closely allied to the Christian vision of learning and personal development. The Academy will be a further stage in the 300 year continuum of Church-sponsored education in Islington.

The Educational Vision for the Islington Academy

We intend to...

- **Be** an educational community where everything is of the highest standard. This will stretch from the teaching, student behaviour, communication with parents, and pastoral care to the buildings and facilities – but above all the standards of learning and character achieved by the students
- **Be** a model of what all-age and lifelong learning is all about - there will be opportunities for everyone from very young children to those in retirement. We will be open '8-till-Late' and during school holidays with a wide range of classes and activities.
- **Be** outward-looking, international and mindful of our responsibilities both to the local and community, including the developing world and toward the care of the planet we share; this will be particularly reflected in our specialism Humanities and Global Citizenship
- **Blur** the edges between primary and secondary education, allowing primary pupils to access early the specialist facilities of the secondary department and secondary pupils to support and mentor younger pupils
- **Exploit** the latest in educational technology, with laptops, electronic whiteboards, communication systems that are second to none
- **Admit** local children and young people both from families who are practising Christians and from families of different backgrounds, who want an education informed by Christian values and beliefs.

- **Ensure** that young people of all abilities and needs are welcome at the Academy and that we develop our policies, recruit and train our staff and design our facilities to provide effective learning opportunities for everyone
- **Recruit** the most talented and creative staff who will want to seize the opportunity to be in at the start of a visionary new school
- **Care** for the pupils and students as special individuals, listen to their views and encourage their involvement in the life of the school and in turn expect them to take responsibilities for their actions and demonstrate high standards of conduct towards to each other, younger pupils and our neighbours in the community

Christian Vision for the Islington Academy

The sponsor for the Academy is the Church of England Diocese of London and therefore Christian values and beliefs will underpin the ethos of the Academy, as they do in the other Church of England schools within the Diocese. Central to the Christian vision is the belief in a loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who creates and sustains the universe and whose loving purposes are extended to all of humanity and creation. The education and growth of the whole person - spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially and physically – flows out of that understanding.

The religious education curriculum – and collective worship - will be stimulating and challenging for all pupils and will complement the Citizenship dimension of the Academy. The Christian approach to living and learning will naturally be prominent, but pupils will also learn about other faiths and belief systems and will be encouraged to explore and debate faith, beliefs and values.

Underlying principles

Central to the underlying life of the Academy will be these values and beliefs

- **The primary purpose** of the Academy is to create a place of learning and opportunity for those who attend it; everything in the Academy must contribute to achieving that purpose;
- **Everyone**, whether student or staff, is of unique value and meaning;
- **Our own lives** are to be lived with purpose and a sense of service;
- **Diversity** is fundamental to the natural world and human society and will be embraced and welcomed by the Academy;
- **The development of character** – the spiritual and moral aspect of the person – is every bit as important as the development of mind and the gaining of qualifications;
- **Personally and corporately**, the Academy will encourage creativity, sustainability, respect for the natural world and an understanding of our responsibilities to each other and our planet as world citizens

The values and beliefs set out above will be embedded in the life of the Academy. They will help every pupil, on their journey into adulthood, to become capable of principled leadership and constructive team membership; to be successful in the world of work; and to contribute to the life and well being of the families and communities in which they live.