BRAILES C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christian Vision, Mission and Values



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1. CHRISTIAN VISION

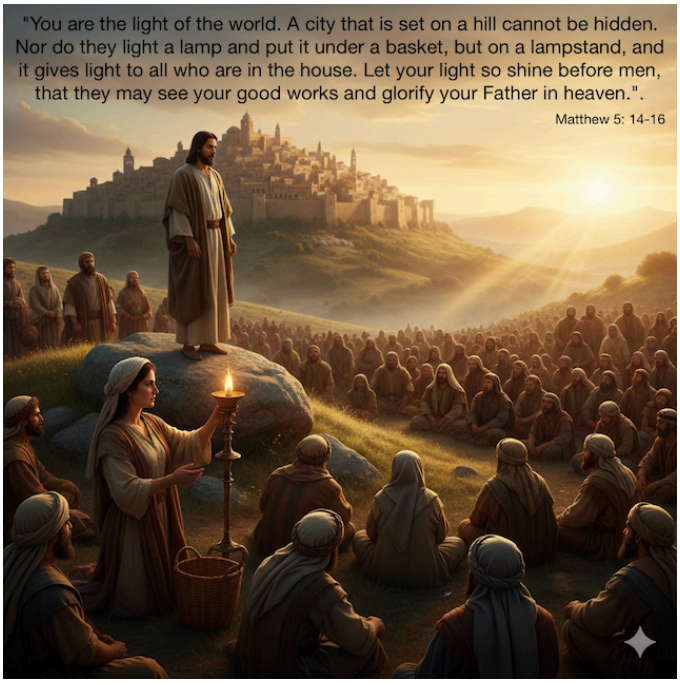
Grow together, shine bright - “Let your light shine”

At Brailes School, we embrace the adventure of learning, encouraging everyone to step out further and think more deeply. We support and encourage all to aspire to great things, to find and nurture their passion, to live life in all its fullness and for the light of each life to shine and make a positive difference, in our school, our communities and our world.

Aiming for excellence in all that we do, through high standards, mutual respect and compassion, we encourage and nurture confident, articulate, resilient, reflective and flexible citizens who are courageous, curious and empowered to steer their own lives, challenging and supporting those around them. We build and sustain strong relationships which enables every child to learn about themselves, value themselves and others, celebrate differences and their personal strengths and to use these gifts to help others.

We value everyone’s contribution and expect that everyone will participate. Together, we grow and shine brightly.

“Grow together, shine bright ‘Let your light shine’” is a direct reflection of Matthew 5:14-16. To understand these verses, we look to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, where He addressed a crowd to teach them how to live as His followers. After revealing the eight blessings known as the Beatitudes, Jesus continued His teaching by using the metaphors of salt and light to describe the impact his followers should have on the world.



The core message is illuminating life by being a positive, visible influence in our school, trust and community, demonstrating God's goodness through our everyday actions.

- **Recognition of God-given Uniqueness (You are the Light):** The vision is rooted in the belief that every child and adult is a source of spiritual light, possessing God-given gifts and talents that must be nurtured. This relates to the concept of **Imago Dei**, where every individual is recognised as being made in God's image and is therefore uniquely valuable and full of potential.
- **Visibility and Community Impact (A City on a Hill):** Just as a city on a hill cannot be hidden, Brailes aims to be a beacon that shines its light far and wide. The vision emphasises that the school's achievements and the brilliant things children learn should not be hidden but should create a positive, hopeful force that illuminates families, the community, and the wider world.
- **Purposeful Action and Service (Good Works):** The call to "let your light so shine" informs the school's focus on action and purpose. At Brailes, this means that learning is an adventure where "good works" are expressed through positive character (compassion, courage, and curiosity) and service to others. Our actions are seen as the vehicle through which we share the light of Jesus with those around us.
- **Overcoming Barriers to Flourishing (Not under a basket):** The metaphor of the lamp on a lampstand informs the school's commitment to inclusion and empowerment. By shining their lights collectively, the community works to banish darkness, negativity, and fixed mindsets, ensuring everyone can see clearly to take the steps required to reach their very best selves. This helps children overcome fear and doubt to confidently "shine for God".
- **Ultimate Purpose (Glorify your Father):** The theological depth of the vision ensures that "shining" is not for self-glory but for witness and service. The ultimate goal of the "good works" performed by the pupils and staff is to point people toward God and lead them to praise and glorify Him.

We believe every child, adult, and member of our wider school family has a God-given gift or talent they can share and have celebrated in our school. By shining our lights collectively, we ensure that everyone can see clearly to take the steps required to reach their very best selves, banishing darkness, negativity, and fixed mindsets. As part of The Stour Federation, this vision supports our commitment to providing a future-focused education where children feel safe, valued, and inspired to live *"life in all its fullness"* (John 10:10).

2. THEOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

At Brailes, our vision of being the "light of the world" finds its deepest theological roots in the concept of **Creation**.

- **Everyone is Made in God's Image (Imago Dei):** We recognise each person as uniquely made by God, possessing a "spiritual light" or spark that must not be hidden. Every part of

our community bears the mark of its Maker, and we see it as our sacred duty to look for and nurture this potential.

- **Creativity and Purpose:** Creativity is an inherent part of who we are as beings made in God's image. Just as God created the world with purpose, He gave each of us talents intended to be shared on a "lampstand" for the benefit of all, rather than hidden away.
- **God's Plan for Flourishing:** Our belief is that God's plan is for all of creation to flourish. At Brailes, this means providing the right conditions—through our curriculum and ethos—for every child to grow like a healthy plant, reaching toward the light.

3. CHRISTIAN MISSION: LIVING OUT PURPOSE

Our mission is the practical outworking of our vision, focused on helping children discover their God-given purpose and letting their light shine through "good works". Everything we do is intentionally designed to help children find their purpose and step into the light.

Mission 1: To believe in ourselves, each other and be proud of our own and others' achievements

We believe that because every individual is a unique Creation made in God's image, they possess an inherent "spiritual light" that is worth celebrating. By believing in the talents of "Team Brailes," we ensure that no light is hidden under a basket but is instead placed on a lampstand to give light to the whole house. We nurture a growth mindset where everyone is encouraged to be proud of their progress as they journey toward their very best selves.

Mission 2: To belong, be understood, valued and confident and proud of who we are.

Rooted in the concept of Imago Dei, we recognize the inherent worth of every member of our school community. We extend "unreasonable hospitality" to ensure that every child feels a deep sense of belonging and safety. When children feel understood and valued as children of God, they gain the confidence to "shine in the world" and live as Jesus lived. We celebrate our authentic selves, knowing we are all special in God's eyes.

Mission 3: To aspire to be our best: outward facing, determined and able to achieve more than we think is possible.

Our vision calls us to be like a "city set on a hill" that cannot be hidden; therefore, we encourage our pupils to be outward-facing citizens who use their "good works" to glorify God. We embrace the adventure of learning, pushing ourselves to step out further and think more deeply than we ever thought possible. We are determined to remove barriers to flourishing, empowering our children to become "agents for change" and courageous advocates for justice in their communities and the wider world.

4. DEEPENING OUR CHRISTIAN VALUES

Our core values are the "tools" that enable our children to place their light on a lampstand and serve the house.

We Are Courageous

Team Brailes does not give up; we are brave and persevere when faced with challenges. It takes courage to step out further and to "let your light shine" even when we feel fear or doubt.

We Are Compassionate

We listen, are present, and take care of ourselves, each other, and our world. Compassion ensures our light provides warmth and comfort to those around us.

We Are Curious

We are curious learners who are resourceful and innovative in finding solutions. This value drives us to "think more deeply" and search for meaning in God's world.



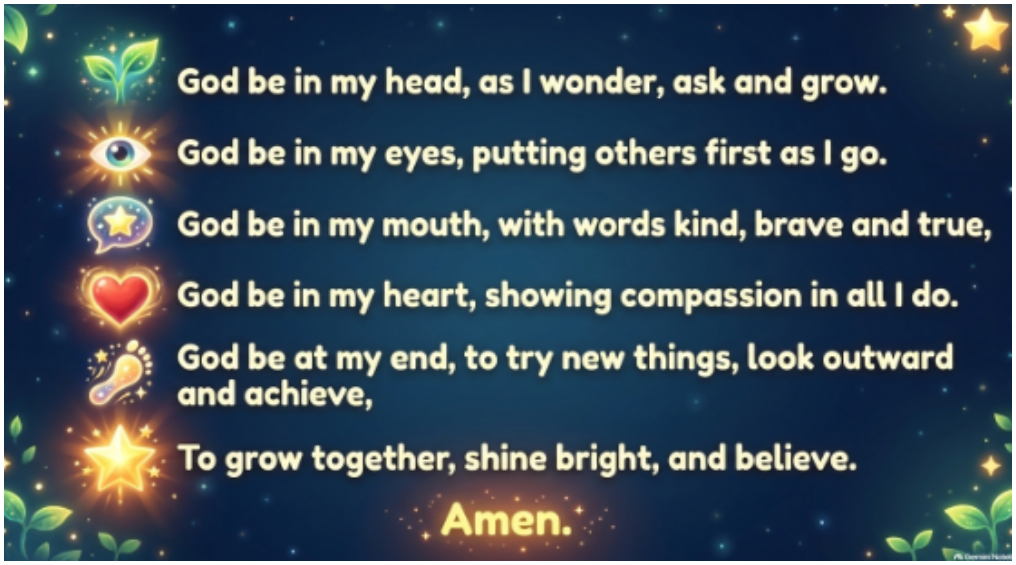
5. GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE

To grow in God's love at Brailes means moving beyond ourselves to embrace the fullness of the Christian narrative through these five additional concepts:

- **Trinity (Embracing Diversity):** The Trinity is characterised by diversity and perfect relationship. We grow in love by making room for everyone, ensuring our school is a "tapestry of interconnected flourishing" where authentic selves are celebrated.

- **Incarnation (Walking Alongside):** Jesus, the Son of God, was born to walk alongside us in the "ows and wows" of life. We grow in love by getting alongside our peers in their times of need, offering "unreasonable hospitality" and support.
- **Salvation (Transformation and Hope):** Salvation is the "Good News" that transforms lives. In our school, this is evidenced through taking action that leads to inclusion and equity, bringing those on the margins into the centre of our community.
- **Reconciliation (Forgiveness and Repair):** God is more concerned with relationships than rules. As an International Cross of Nails school, we grow in love through restorative practices, choosing forgiveness and repair to maintain a harmonious community.
- **Love (The Foundation of All):** God is love. Our school is recognised by the way it loves, providing a framework where difficult conversations are handled with kindness and truth, ensuring everyone knows they are valuable to God.

6. BRAILES SCHOOL PRAYER



Brailes School Prayer Theological Rooted in our Vision, Mission and Values

Brailes school prayer serves as the explicit, systemic, and theological blueprint lived out as the **“beating heart of our school”**. Each line of the prayer maps directly to our vision, missions, core values, and spiritual framework across four relational directions:

- **Line 1: "God be in my head, as I wonder, ask and grow."**

  Alignment: Core Value: **Curiosity** | Mission: **Aspire**

  Theological Rooting: Rooted in **Creation** and God's plan for flourishing through outward-facing discovery (**Windows**). It opens new perspectives on the world,

encouraging pupils to experience its awe and challenges while providing the soil for pupils to grow like healthy plants reaching toward the light.

- **Lines 2 & 4: "God be in my eyes, putting others first as I go."** and **"God be in my heart, showing compassion in all I do."**

  Alignment: Core Value: **Compassion** | Missions: **Belong & Believe**

  Theological Rooting: Rooted in **Imago Dei**, the **Trinity**, **Incarnation**, and **Salvation / Good Works** through inward reflection (**Mirrors**). It recognizes the sacred worth of every individual made in God's image and expresses compassionate character through daily positive actions and service ('good works') so no child's light is hidden under a basket.

- **Lines 3 and 5: "God be in my mouth, with words kind, brave and true." and "God be at my end, to try new things, look outward and achieve."**

  Alignment: Core Values: **Courage & Compassion** | Missions: **Belong, Believe, & Aspire**

  Theological Rooting: Rooted in **Love**, **Reconciliation**, **"Not under a basket"**, and **"A City on a Hill"** through physical action and service (**Doors**). It empowers courageous advocacy, prioritises restorative practices (forgiveness and repair) over rigid rules, banishes fixed mindsets, and encourages stepping out of comfort zones to act as agents for change to reach our personal and collective goals and potential.

- **Line 6: "To grow together, shine bright, and believe."**

  Alignment: All Core Values | Missions: **Believe & Aspire**

  Theological Rooting: Rooted in the **Trinity**, **Matthew 5:14-16**, and **"A City on a Hill"** through community connection (**Beyond**). It gathers individual lights into a visible, hopeful beacon that glorifies God through collective flourishing, service, and witness.


BRAILES C of E
PRIMARY SCHOOL
THE SCHOOL PRAYER
God be in my head,
as I wonder, ask and grow.
God be in my eyes,
putting others first as I go.
kind
brave
true
God be in my mouth,
with words kind, brave and true,
God be in my heart,
showing compassion in all I do.
God be at my end, to try new things,
look outward and achieve,
To grow together,
shine bright,
and believe.