



4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

## Vision and Virtues

Dear Parent or Carer,

I wanted to write to you to outline some exciting and important work we have undertaken with staff and pupils in school that will impact on everyone connected to Nether Stowe from September. This is a longer than usual letter, but I wanted to ensure important information was shared with you.

The school's vision is an important statement of what Nether Stowe stands for – our purpose – as well as the ethos and values which we strive for our pupils to embody. What we set as our vision and values is a core statement of what we want to achieve.

In conjunction with staff and pupils, we have revisited and completely revised our school vision and, importantly, how this is embodied in the virtues we expect of everyone. Our revised and updated school vision is below.

Our vision is for Nether Stowe:

- To be a safe, happy, inclusive community in which everyone can flourish and where everyone is valued and respected.
- To inspire everyone to find their passion and excel.
- To create great opportunities and experiences supporting everyone to shape and create their future.
- To make everyone proud of their personal success and achievements and proud to contribute to the Nether Stowe, wider community and society.
- To care for individuals and build compassionate, assured, moral characters that value well-being.

To achieve our vision, we have established three virtues that will form the basis and foundation of everything we do:

**Be Respectful. Be Ambitious. Be Resilient**

What do each of these virtues mean?

Firstly, the order of the three virtues is important. Respect sets the personal and interpersonal qualities that are the foundation of any success and progress. Ambition builds on this, setting high standards and challenging goals, encouraging everyone to go beyond their comfort zone and be curious in their learning. Ultimately to realise our ambitions, whatever they may be, we must be resilient. Success is never a straight path, but we must learn to adapt and overcome setbacks. Most importantly, each of these virtues is relevant to everyone, whether



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it is the senior leadership team, pupils just about to join us in Year 7, or those about to enter Year 11 or Year 13. Our three school virtues can be broken down into more specific examples of what each means:

## **Be Respectful**

- We show consideration for others in school and the wider community.
- We celebrate diversity and difference.
- We listen to the views and opinions of others.
- We use language that is thoughtful and considerate.
- We demonstrate kindness and gratitude.
- We self-manage and take responsibility for our actions.
- We look after and care for the school environment.
- We represent the school and wear school uniform with pride.
- We celebrate achievement and success – both our own and of others.

## **Be Ambitious**

- We set ourselves challenging goals.
- We are ready to go beyond our comfort zone.
- We are brave and take risks.
- We have the courage to try something different.
- We are curious about what other people know and think.
- We understand the importance of learning from each other.
- We take opportunities.
- We learn new behaviours and strive to be the best version of ourselves.
- We are not defined by the past, we always look to a positive future.
- We are curious and ask deep questions of ourselves and the world around us.

## **Be Resilient**

- We accept that challenge is essential to success.
- We are able to bounce back when we encounter difficulty.
- We know that practice makes things easier.
- We understand that failing is a part of succeeding.
- We strive to solve problems.
- We work hard to get better.
- We are committed to achieving and even exceeding our goals.
- We adapt to the unexpected.
- We get involved, supporting our College and school.
- We complete independent and home learning.
- We attend school even when it feels really difficult.



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As a small - but growing - school, the idea of community is very important to us. The use of 'we' in each statement is designed to reflect this. It is through working together, and collaboratively, that we make a real difference to our pupils. These values and virtues must, therefore, apply to everyone connected with the school: pupils, staff and, of course, parents and carers.

All of our key policies will be revised to ensure alignment with our whole-school vision and virtues and we are undertaking exciting work on the College system and College competitions ready for next year. Praise and reward will be key to our provision next year and further information will also be provided outlining our new reward policy before the end of term.

The headteacher's Forum in the Little Theatre on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July (5-6pm) will provide an opportunity for you to explore and ask questions about the school vision and virtues and how they will shape our provision and ethos from September and onwards. You can reserve a place by [clicking on this link](#).

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Glyn Langston-Jones  
**Headteacher**