

At Emmanuel we are inspired to go beyond our own limits

Our Vision at Emmanuel Middle is based on the Biblical text behind our core value of Excellence: Colossians (chapter 3 verse 22 The Message), says '...don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best.' Our vision is for pupils to strive for their best academically, morally and spiritually; in fact we inspire staff and pupils look beyond themselves because so often our notion of what is 'our best' is limited by social, cultural and personal factors. Our core values of 'Excellence', 'Endeavour' and 'Enjoyment' are everyday characteristics which underpin the vision of doing our best in every moment. That is why our reward system (see EMS Reward System) is based around these three values.

Also all of our Houses are named after inspirational characters who have shown their ability to go beyond what might be expected of them, demonstrating our core values in abundance. There is not one who cannot show that they have fully demonstrated the right to be an inspiration to us in all aspects. From Bear Grylls scaling mountains and recovering from injury whilst joking with Presidents; to Malala Yousafzai overcoming prejudice and violence to attend Oxford University whilst joking on youtube with her little brother; to Nic Vujicic who has let nothing limit his aspiration for living a full life of fun and adventure; to Emma Watson who has risen above the spotlight of early fame to inspire and hold to account leaders around the world. Learn more about them and our core values and let this be your inspiration at Emmanuel Middle.

Excellence: The Apostle Paul, writing to the Colossians (chapter 3 verse 22 The Message), says '...don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best.' To do our best is, in many senses the highest form of worship because we are literally honouring God by giving the best of ourselves.

In wider society excellence is also a bench mark of commitment and expectation that if nurtured in young people can define how far they take their individual talents. As Ralph Marston put it, 'Excellence is not a skill it's an attitude' which we take to mean that anyone can learn to expect the best of themselves and others.

Endeavour: The word doesn't appear in most translations of the Bible but it is central to many passages in its meaning. Paul wrote some great advice about the quantities of determination, perseverance and bravery which make up endeavour. For example he said to the Corinthians (chapter 1 verse 26) 'I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got'. James, who was Jesus' brother said to the church (Chapter 1 verse 3) 'you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything' because he knew first hand that though things get tough, by keeping going, you get stronger.

Vince Lombardi the famed American Football coach put it like this: 'It's Not Whether You Get Knocked Down, It's Whether You Get Up.'!

Enjoyment: The Bible tells us that God wants us to have 'life in all its fullness' (John chapter 10 verse 10) and that the source of enjoyment is Heavenly Father (1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 17) 'put [your] hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment'. It is very clear from all modern research, as well as common sense, that those who are happy in their work are generally able to be more productive and achieve work to a better standard.

As Oprah Winfrey puts it 'Passion is energy. Feel the power that comes from focusing on what excites you' or as Einstein says 'Creativity is intelligence having fun'.

Bear Grylls, Mala Yousafzai, Nick Vujicic and Emma Watson are all, in their very core, passionate about what they do. They also exude that sense of fun in life and work. They truly are role models for our vision 'to do our best' and 'go beyond'.