"We aim high in our hearts and minds as we blossom in God's garden."

Shocklach Oviatt
C.E. Primary School

At Shocklach Oviatt Church of England Primary School, we believe that the teachings of Jesus are central to meeting the needs of the local community. Jesus wanted people to flourish (John 14:6) and to achieve incredible things (John 14:12). The vision here at Shocklach, aims to enable all children to reach the God-given potential they have and was established over a decade ago. In the summer of 2026, in consultation with pupils, governors, staff and parents, the statement above was explored and the question of "What does this vision mean?" and "Should this vision remain in place?" was asked. With the community concluding that this was still the correct vision for the community, work was undertaken to understand what it means now and how we as a community can enable all our children to flourish and achieve their God-given potential.

"We aim high in hearts..."

This vision is made as a collective community which values the flourishing of every member within it. We acknowledge that without other people, we are unable to grow so it is vital that we all work collaboratively to live out this vision (Mark 6:7).

Kindness and compassion are at the forefront of what is means to aim high in heart. The Bible places love as the greatest value (1 Corinthians 13:13) and it is this that drives our decision making. However, what it means to show love is essential to understand for us to aim high in our hearts. Love is understood through the values of:

- Thankfulness: in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18) and for all things;
- Kindness: for those in need (Proverbs 19:17), and for all (Matthew 22:39);
- Perseverance: to endure all challenges that come our way (Hebrews 10:36)
- Joy: for the good times (Ecclesiastes 8:15), the bad (Romans 5:3) and that lasts (Psalm 30:5);
- Compassion: that is put into action and that is extended to all (John 13:34) and
- Wisdom: to make wise choices that enable all to become live long learners (James 1:5).

These six values encompass what we aspire our children to aim for in their pursuit of aiming high in hearts.

"We aim high in minds..."

Our desire for all children to remain intrigued and inquisitive of the world around them. Within our beautiful surroundings, we are perfectly set to encourage our children to develop a restless curiosity that drives them to want to know more and seek the truths of life (Proverbs 24:16).

Aiming high in minds is also about growing in understanding of the world around us. We desire our children to be resilient to the challenges that life will undoubtedly throw their way. We know that it is through encountering challenging situations that we grow (James 1:2-4) and we understand the values of facing challenges in the company of people we trust. We want our children to discover that in order to grow in confidence, they must work hard on the tasks they have been set (Colossians 3:23) and grow in perseverance. Through academic success, sporting accomplishments, artistic wonders, mesmerising dances, compelling acting, overcoming fears and having opportunities to shine, this is how we grow in minds.

"...as we blossom..."

At Shocklach, our success is not measured though data or tests. Our success is measured by the way our pupils leave having grown and blossomed. This process is one full of challenges and it's outcomes are measured through a number of lenses. One is through the love of learning we aim to instil in each of our pupils. Knowledge is given to those who seek wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1:7) and it is our aim that every child leaves Shocklach with a thirst for wisdom.

Our community blossoms through the way it supports academic success but equally importantly the way it enriches its pupils. Part of this is through musical, performative, sporting and creative opportunities that pupils are able to show their talents and learn (Colossians 3:16). Whilst we fully embrace and pursue success for our pupils in traditional areas of school life, we are passionate that blossoming through enrichment opportunities can only benefit the children. Above all, we know that confidence begins with God (Philippians 4:13) and that to become the confident, resilient, self-aware pupils we want, they must be allowed to blossom into the young men and woman God has designed them to be (Ephesians 2:10).

"...in God's garden..."

Shocklach's jewel in the crown is it rural setting. Our school is blessed with such a wonderful array of natural areas that encourage the children to explore God's garden, which is creation. Our desire is to enable children to enjoy being outdoors as much as possible in order for them to revel in the beautiful complexity of creation.

Enjoying the beauty of creation (Psalm 19:1) and the spiritual benefits this brings are vitally important to us as rural community. As we continue to develop our approach to outdoor learning, we remain inspired by these simple words that were spoken by a pupil: Being outside makes feel like "I am being watered by God's peace, joy and knowledge."