



**St James' Catholic Primary School
Millom**

**Our
Mission
Statement**

**"I have loved you with an everlasting love"
*Jeremiah 31.3***



“I have loved you with an everlasting love”
(Jeremiah 31:3)

At the centre of our school life is the shared belief that God loves each person with a love that knows no limits. We recognize that each person is a gift from God. We deeply desire that each person will experience the joy of this love in our school community.

St James’ is a Catholic primary school that strives to vibrantly celebrate its Christian faith in every aspect of school life. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly ‘God with us’.

At St James’, we believe that the intellectual and spiritual development of each child go hand in hand. In discovering the truth, beauty and goodness of creation and of human relationships we draw ever closer to God.



Our School Vision

Our school vision is of a community working together in openness, trust and respect taking Christ as our role model in all that we do,

We aim for all members of our community to:

- **Develop and value their relationship with God knowing that they are loved by Him.**
- **Embrace and enjoy learning, developing their strengths and acknowledging their weaknesses**
- **Strive to achieve high standards in all things, and be the best that they can.**
- **Acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to the changing world in which we live.**
- **Respect and value themselves, other people and the environment**
- **Recognise and celebrate the beauty and wonder of creation**
- **Take responsibility for their own actions and make informed choices**
- **Make a positive and valuable contribution to the local community and wider world.**



The Spirituality of our school based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3 – 10)

“How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom.”

We believe that poverty of spirit expresses our need of God and our need of others. As Jesus Christ is the centre of our lives and the source of all wisdom we recognize and treasure His presence as fundamental to our Christian life. We are called to live, learn and love in our school community. Within our community we recognize each person as a unique gift from God, with whom we share our lives. Our relationships with others are based on the teachings of Jesus, ‘to love your neighbour as yourself.’ Through living and working alongside other people we learn understanding, tolerance, compassion and forgiveness.

“Happy are the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.”

Gentleness of spirit is a gift that we constantly seek at St James’ school. We learn to respect each person and to appreciate different points of view. We celebrate the good things that each individual brings to our community and we support one another and understand one another in difficulties.

“Happy are those who mourn: they shall be comforted.”

We believe that the gift of human life is sacred and that the relationships we form are God given. Our Christian faith helps us to understand the mystery of the birth, life and death of each one of us. As a Christian family, we share the pains of our community, but we also have a faith that proclaims the Resurrection and the hope of eternal life, and so we can be a source of consolation and inspiration to those who suffer.

“Happy are those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.”

Justice is central to the message of Jesus, and to our school. We practice justice and integrity in all that we do and say. However, the concept of justice is not limited to our school community. The broader sense of justice, for the poor, the under privileged, the persecuted both at home and abroad is something that we hold dear to our hearts and minds of all at St James’ and we actively take steps to promote justice for all in the daily life of our school.

“Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.”

Understanding, compassion and forgiveness are three essential elements of mercy. Mercy is something that happens between people. To truly love another person as God loves us requires us to be merciful. In our relationships with others there are moments of failure, anxiety and wrong-doing. To learn to understand another person’s position, to suffer alongside another person and to find the courage and strength to forgive someone’s faults are all things we practice in the daily life of our school.

“Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called the children of God.”

St James’ is a community of forgiveness and reconciliation. Each day we are called to reconcile our differences in a spirit of authentic love. We constantly strive for the gift of peace in our personal, professional and family lives, and we celebrate sacramentally the Gift of Reconciliation in our school. On a global level, we are aware of the need for peace and reconciliation between nations and religions. We pray and long for the gift of peace and recognize it as the fruit of the Kingdom of God.

“Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Honesty and integrity are characteristics we uphold at St James’. Having the courage to stand firmly by what is good and true is something we aspire to. We foster an atmosphere of honest debate and dialogue that encourages each individual to develop and express moral courage.

“Children and young people have the right to be stimulated to make sound moral judgements based on well formed conscience and to put them into practice with a sense of personal commitment, and to know and love God more perfectly.”

(Gravissimum Educationis 1)