



## DOWAT Vision, Mission and Values

### Vision Statement

The schools in the Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust, each according to their unique charism, are part of the mission of the Catholic Church “to preach the Gospel to all nations: to enrich all people with the light of the Good News, which, by its essence, is aimed at transforming the human person and setting him or her on the path that leads to salvation” (1).

With Christ at the centre of our hearts and of our schools, we are committed to the flourishing of our children and young people, so that they might grow in excellence and learn how to use their skills and knowledge for the common good, for the sake of their sisters and brothers in the world, especially the poor and marginalized.

We believe that every pupil is made in the image of God, with God-given gifts and God-given dignity: a divine origin and an eternal destiny. We believe that no pupil’s background or start in life should determine their future. We commit ourselves to a preferential option for the poor, so that our disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils enjoy as much opportunity and academic success as their peers.

Our school communities will be distinguished by an atmosphere “permeated with the Gospel spirit of freedom and love” (2). Our pupils will experience their dignity in the way that they are loved, encouraged, accompanied and celebrated on their journey through school. Our belief in the dignity of the person will be expressed in particular in a commitment to promoting social and racial justice.

As a trust of Catholic schools, we are committed to working together in a trusting and collaborative manner, with integrity and transparency. We will model the leadership in the trust and in our schools on the example of our Teacher, Jesus Christ, “who came into the world to give witness to the truth, to save and not to judge, to serve and not to be served.” (3).

We will encourage a commitment in our schools to the stewardship of the earth, our common home and invite our pupils to be good citizens, agents of positive change in the world, helping to build up God’s kingdom of peace and justice.

(1) Cardinal Grocholewski, *The Catholic School According to the Code of Canon Law*

(2) *The Catholic School*, 55

(3) Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*, 3

## Mission Statement

To achieve excellence in the service of the Gospel, to build a better world

## Our Gospel Values

Our values are derived from the Gospel and in particular the beatitudes, which according to the Catechism, “are at the heart of Jesus' preaching” (CCC, 1716). Our eight Gospel values we will hold up as a guide and exemplar of being human. We will seek to integrate them into the curriculum in our schools so that our pupils learn about the world through the ‘lens’ of the Gospel. The values of the Gospel challenge each generation to consider who they consider to be important, or ‘blessed’.

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*

**Gospel value: Humility**, seeing life as a gift

*“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”*

**Gospel value: Compassion**, empathy

*“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”*

**Gospel value: Kindness**, gentleness

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”*

**Gospel value: Justice**, working for a fairer world

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”*

**Gospel value: Forgiveness**, reconciliation

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”*

**Gospel value: Integrity**, do what you say

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God”*

**Gospel value: Peace**, committed to peacemaking, non-violence

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*

**Gospel value: Courage**, standing up for truth

*Approved by the DOWAT Board on 16.12.2020*