

St Joseph's School, Mission Statement
Bishop's Visit
Wednesday 26th March 2025

Good morning, everyone!

It's such a joy to be with you today. Now, I don't know about you, but I've always believed that mission statements should be more than just a sentence on a wall, gathering dust like forgotten trophies on a shelf. They should live and breathe - like that one over-enthusiastic student who always puts their hand up before the question is even asked!

So, let's talk about your new mission statement:

“With God's love and inspiration we aspire to achieve excellence.”

Short. Sharp. And frankly - excellent. Well done. Good for the Jubilee Year of Hope too - it's like something a Pilgrim of Hope might say.

Now, let's break it down, shall we?

“With God's love...”

This is where it all begins. Not with competition. Not with comparison. But with love. Real love. The kind that picks you up when you've fallen, cheers you on when you're tired, and reminds you that your worth isn't based on your grades, but on the fact that you are wonderfully made.

God's love is not like Wi-Fi - you don't have to stand in a specific corner of the school to get a signal. It's everywhere. Constant. Unconditional. Whether you're the head teacher or the student who always forgets their PE kit.

“...and inspiration...”

Ah, inspiration! That little spark that lights up our imagination, pushes us beyond what we think we can do, and yes, even helps you finish homework the night before it's due. (Not that I'm endorsing that, of course.)

God inspires through people - your teachers, your friends, even your parents when they say, “You'll thank me one day.” Spoiler alert: one day, you actually will.

“...we aspire to achieve excellence.”

Now here's the key: it doesn't say *perfection*. It says *excellence*. And excellence means being the best version of *yourself* - not someone else.

Bl Carlo Acutis: Be an original, most people live their whole lives as photocopies!

Excellence is about giving your all, learning from your mistakes, and doing your best even when no one is watching. Especially then.

And you know what's exciting? Excellence isn't just about academic results - it's about kindness in the playground, honesty in the classroom, and courage to stand up for what's right.

So, as a school community, this mission statement is both a prayer and a promise.

A prayer - that God's love and inspiration will guide you.

And a promise - that together, you'll keep reaching higher - not just for success, but for significance.

So may this mission statement not just live on your website or your wall, but also in your words, in your work, and in your walk every single day.

God bless you all - and may your journey to excellence be filled with laughter, love, and maybe just a little less forgotten homework.

Thank you.

Bishop Bosco MacDonald
Bishop of Clifton