



REDEPT

RE Department

Supporting the Ethos of the School

The School Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to be an active Christian community of love and service,
Where all feel they belong and are valued.
We will help each other to recognise the gifts of God within us,
To search for excellence and to foster the development of our true self.

The Mission statement is the vision of the school and the reason why we are here. Everything that we do is justified and grounded in the beliefs set out in our Mission Statement. Every child in the school is uniquely and specially created by God, in His image, and therefore is treated and served with the dignity of someone who has the call to holiness. We exemplify the active love of God in our relationships with the students, to treat them and see them as God does. All students, without exception, are welcomed into our community and are given a safe place to practice and develop their skills, and come to truly know themselves as children of God. Our fulfilment of our true selves can only fully realised through our relationship with Jesus.

The School Prayer:

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me, which He has not committed to another. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between people. He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good. I shall do His work.

God our Father, Give us the strength and courage to be our true self. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

This prayer is based on the prayer of Blessed John Henry Newman, a Catholic Priest who played a pivotal role in establishing the Diocese of Birmingham in the 19th Century. Blessed John Henry Newman knew and worked closely with Bishop Ullathorne (the first Archbishop of Birmingham Diocese) and even though their personalities were totally different, they worked effectively to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth. They both had a strong sense of social justice and the need to bring education to the poor and vulnerable. Blessed John Henry Newman's motto was "*Heart speaks to Heart*" and describes the importance of a deeper conversation and communion with God, which may ultimately reveal our true vocation to do good, and to do his work.

Although the prayer is written by John Henry Newman, it perfectly describes the experience and vocation of Bishop Ullathorne, through his conversion experience in the Baltic Sea, his ordination into the Benedictine Order, and his role defending the rights of Aboriginals and the imprisoned in Australia. Bishop Ullathorne was a vocal advocate for the role of women in the Church and dedicated the newly created Archdiocese of Birmingham to Our Lady in 1850.

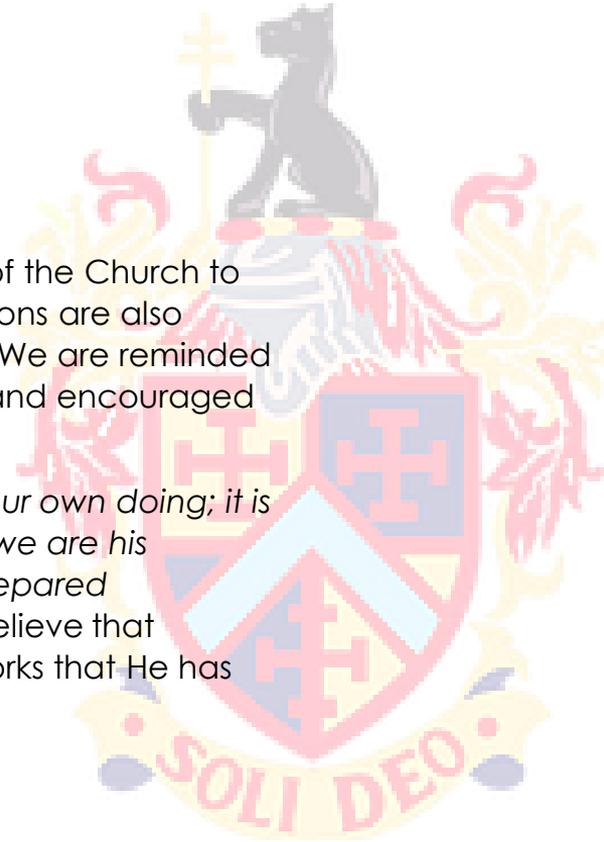
Whether we feel teaching is our vocation or profession, we are part of an interdependent community of teachers and students. We must be able to rely and trust on one another, as Bishop Ullathorne and John Henry Newman did. In all things we will persevere to do what is right.

The School Motto:

SOLI DEO (FOR GOD ALONE)

The phrase *Soli Deo Gloria* has been used throughout the tradition of the Church to demonstrate how human work is to honour God. Our work and actions are also produced for the sole purpose of praising and giving Glory to God. We are reminded that Jesus states: “apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5) and encouraged that “nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37)

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, **so that no one may boast.** For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* [Ephesians 5:8-10] We believe that Catholic Schools are created as part of God’s plan to fulfil good works that He has prepared for us.

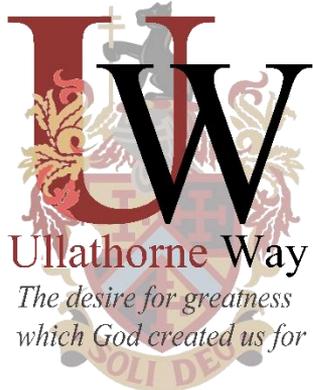


The Ullathorne Way:

The Ullathorne Way has been inspired by the Jesuit Pupil Profile. The Jesuits (Society of Jesus) are a community of Catholic Priests who are renowned scholars and teachers. They were founded by St Ignatius of Loyola, and are also involved in missions, evangelisation, environmental care, refugee aid and spiritual guidance.

The aim of Jesuit education is 'improvement in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good'. This fits nicely with our school motto, and outlines sixteen virtues that students are instructed in and encouraged to develop (Grateful/ Generous, Attentive/ discerning, compassionate/ loving, faith filled/ hopeful, eloquent/ truthful, learned/ wise, curious/ active, intentional/ prophetic.

To better reflect our school community, the Jesuit Pupil Profile has been edited and made to better complement the way we conduct ourselves in our community. These perfectly describe the character and life of Bishop Ullathorne, and are more representative of our own identity/ ethos.



The Ullathorne Way:

Be **compassionate**. Recognise another person's suffering, See the world through their eyes and step in to their shoes. Have the ability to be moved by what we see and hear and to understand and love one another more deeply. *We can show these values in the way that we speak, act and present ourselves. It is about the way we respect and value everything, it is how we choose God's perfection in all things.*

Be **faith-filled** and **prophetic**. Have faith in ourselves and others to live and act as God has taught us to. Be seen to be doing good and speak out for what is right. Shape our future and the future of others in a way that is guided by our faith in God, our conscience and our love for one another. *The way we can show this is through our contribution to and engagement with the school ethos and wider school community. Through taking part in extra-curricular activities and immersing ourselves in all aspects of school life*

Be **attentive**. Play close attention to the choices which we make. We need to ask ourselves whether we have made the right choices and given time and energy to the people and things that matter. It is about making better decisions, learning from past experiences and seeking the better way forward. *We can show these values in the way that we speak, act and present ourselves. It is about the way we respect and value everything, it is how we choose God's perfection in all things*

Be **eloquent**. Have the language skills to ask questions, express our emotions, debate points, engage in conversations, speak our beliefs and to talk about matters of faith. It is about speaking the truth. *We can show these values through our attitude towards learning, our effort and our understanding of how our actions have a positive impact on others*

Be **wise** and **curious**. Recognise that knowledge can empower us to become better people and to build a better future. It is about being eager to learn and actively engaged in our learning. It is about probing, seeking, asking and questioning. It is to think for ourselves and to become an independent and lifelong learner. *We can show these values through our attitude towards learning, our effort and our understanding of how our actions have a positive impact on others.*

Be **grateful**. Recognise and be thankful for the gifts that we have been given: our health and family, our shelter and security, our friends and community, our education, our talents and pastimes. From recognising all that we have, we grow to be **generous** with our time and talents. *We can show these values in the way that we speak, act and present ourselves. It is about the way we respect and value everything, it is how we choose God's perfection in all things.*