

William Alvey's Vision

We shouldn't just look back but William Alvey was very much 'before' his time and he had a vision that, for me at least, still resonates with today's challenges.

In 1729 William Alvey stated in his will that £20 was to be paid each year to educate the poor children of New Sleaford.

His vision was clear:

- The school had been built under the guidance of God to mould the character of one generation after another of Sleaford Boys and Girls in order to cope with the stresses and strains of an ever changing world
- Each child was to be educated to ensure they showed tolerance to those in the town and many places afar
- The school was to maintain its place high in the affections of the people of Sleaford and ensure it always played a part in their daily lives
- The school would educate children under the influence of God. Respecting each other and supporting those in need who are less privileged than themselves
- The school would send children out into the world having done the very best they can in school in reading, writing and arithmetic and other subjects, which will help them understand the workings of the world
- The school would help all children to take part and strive for victory but not at the cost of fair play or companionship
- William Alvey hoped the children who attended the school would always carry a little of the spirit of William Alvey and the history of the school with them, wherever they go and whatever they do

In a 1945 newspaper article it also says:

- Pupils at William Alvey should strive for peace at every turn
- William Alvey believed in education but he held personal effort in equally high regard
- In the same article Rev Canon Waudby also said "...today there is a tendency to depend on board of governors, education committees and other things for the running and building of schools. No matter how necessary it might be nowadays to have great staffs and officialdom the real work of the world would always be done by men and women who got ideas and carried them out."

Historical values unique to William Alvey

- In 1785, James Harryman left some money to pay for footwear for needy children, for years afterwards, every boy and girl who achieved a full year's attendance at William Alvey, was given the money or a ticket to buy boots or shoes from Stead and Simpson (40 Southgate, recently Thorntons).