

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

### Values for Life

Christian values are at the heart of our academy. Staff, governors, parent representatives and children worked together to discuss which values are important for our community and how we could embed them in our daily living and learning together. The **six key values** chosen to focus on were:

**FRIENDSHIP, FORGIVENESS, PEACE, TRUTHFULNESS, RESPECT, COURAGE**

Other values that support our ethos include: [hope](#), [compassion](#), [patience](#), [tolerance](#), [gratefulness](#) and [justice](#).



These core values underpin our daily life and are implicit in our mission statement:

**Guided by God, to be the best that we can be.**

While values have always been seen as an important part of our ethos at St John's, it now has an enhanced profile and as a school we encourage all staff, governors and children to reflect and articulate their values with much greater clarity and openness.

## How do we convey our Values?

We communicate our values everyday through:

- The leadership of the academy; our mission statement, vision and aims all reflect our ethos. It is essential that we provide an environment which is a safe, caring place where children can share, experience and reflect in order to grow and develop good moral conduct.
- All relationships in the academy which should provide a model of values in action.
- Adults' use of moral language to help pupils to internalise ideas as to what is acceptable and what is not.
- Teaching methods that convey respect for people, respect for the truth, acceptance of responsibility for actions and a concern for justice.
- The planned curriculum including links with the social and emotional aspects of learning and global citizenship
- Collective Worship

## Our Approach to Teaching Values

We promote the teaching of values through:

- Planned opportunities for Collective Worship which raises awareness of each aspect of a value
- Bible stories that are relevant to the themes of each value
- Stories from world faiths, which illustrate the value
- Stories about special people or events in the community or world
- Subjects taught through the curriculum to support understanding of values through concrete situations
- Adults using a range of questions to help reflect on each value
- Involving parents for example sharing values through newsletters, invitations to Family Worship, Achievement Assemblies
- Highlighting examples of children who have demonstrated our Christian values in action through the awarding of 'Shining Light Citizenship' certificates.

General Guidance for where and how core values can be seen;

**Respect** - for property, care of the environment, children are God's 'caretakers', codes of behaviour, different points of view, school values prayer

**Courage** – Persistence 'I can if I try' school motto, encouraging self and others, sporting events, aiming to be the best we can be, making a stand for what is right, anti –bullying, 'Telling School'

**Peace** – Resolving conflicts, being open and honest, creating space for stillness, opportunities for calm.

**Forgiveness** – Death on the cross, ultimate revelation of God’s forgiving love – everyone makes mistakes - that is how we learn, we all need forgiveness from God and each other, day to day dealings with each other.

**Justice** – Taking responsibility for one another, global justice, Fair Trade, support for charities

**Thankfulness**- God loves and cares for us in so many ways. How do we show appreciation to God, to others to each other?

### **Monitoring and Evaluating Impact**

Our Christian values have considerable impact on pupils’ behaviour, attitudes and understanding. This is evidenced by:

- The number of visitors to school who comment on the warm, welcoming atmosphere.
- The number of outsiders who comment on children’s behaviour and attitudes on visits out of school, including sporting events.
- Analysis of parental questionnaires (September 16) confirmed that 97% thought children were well behaved and a number of parents commented that the school taught strong Christian values that school was welcoming and approachable.
- Analysis of pupil questionnaires (Feb. 16) confirmed that the majority (93%) said they enjoyed coming to school.
- There have been no exclusions for five years.
- The number of pupils and staff who actively contribute to charitable events e.g. MacMillan’s Cancer Trust, Children In Need, Darlington Food Bank, Lesotho
- The children grow in confidence and understanding as they get older and can verbalise their reasoning behind decisions based on strong moral values e.g. Nominating ‘Shining Light Citizenship’ awards, School Council members, evaluations of Collective Worship.
- The number of children who independently display prayers and thoughts on our Prayer Tree, Good News Tree or contribute to Class Reflection areas.