



# Our Christian Values

We asked children, parents, governors and staff what they saw as the most important Christian Values for our school. The ones that were chosen were:

**Trust   Kindness   Peace   Honesty   Perseverance**

Some children, parents, governors and staff have a very good understanding of these values and their importance in our school life. We all understand that we chose them because they are what make our school a caring place to be nurtured and grow.

Sometimes it is difficult to put into words the distinctively Christian aspects of these values that are important for us as a church school.

## Trust

We learn about Trust being important in all relationships, including being able to trust God. Trust is rooted in truth and in relationships we need to show that we can be reliable and trustworthy. We think about this in our friendships and in our school and families. We look at role models who demonstrate different kinds of trust. God's commitment to humanity is seen through how he trusts ordinary people to carry out his purposes through history; we look at the example of Mary the mother of Jesus. We also learn about Jesus's friends learning that they can trust him when life is difficult.

'The storm on the Lake' Matthew 8 verse 24

## Kindness

Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone. There are lots of examples of Bible stories that illustrate this including Jesus feeds the 5000 and the Good Samaritan. The Good Samaritan encourages children to reflect on 'Who is my neighbour' and puts kindness into a global context.

'Love one another as I have loved you' John 15 verse 12

## Peace

Jesus said 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God' Matthew 5verse 9. In this value we look at the word 'Shalom' meaning peace in the sense of total well -being; we introduce the idea of 'sharing the peace' with each other. We learn about Francis of Assisi and examples of people who are working for peace and justice in the world. Psalm 23: 'The Lord is my shepherd'

## **Honesty**

Honesty is closely linked to the Christian value of Truthfulness. We look at teaching in the Bible and other religions, and British values about being honest. We learn about the Ten Commandments (Do not steal and do not tell lies or make false accusation) and Jesus' new commandment 'Love one another, as I have loved you,' John 13verse 34. We think about the importance of honesty and truthfulness in school and in society. The children explore the idea that through the life of Jesus Christ and teaching we are given an example of how to live. Through discussion in Collective worship and in class, we aim to equip the children to make informed moral choices.

## **Perseverance**

Jesus frequently encouraged his disciples to 'endure patiently' the difficulties that they encountered and persevere in the face of adversity. Jesus himself trusted God even when his enemies tried to stop his work and plot his death. We encourage the pupils and give them skills to persevere through difficult times, through examples from the Bible such as the story of Nehemiah re-building the walls of Jerusalem and also real life examples of heroes who have persevered through illness or difficulties. This links well with work on British values and cross curricular work in History eg. Battle of Britain, and in Science, eg. Thomas Edison, inventor of the electric light bulb. We also learn about God's persevering love for each individual. Through the story of the lost sheep where the shepherd went out late at night to look for one lost sheep, the children learn that just as the shepherd cared for each of his sheep, so God cares for each of us - Luke chapter 15.