



Westcott Church of England School

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Headteacher **Mr Barry Grace**

Westcott C of E School

Promoting British Values – 2020-2023

The DfE have reinforced the need ***“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”*** The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy.

Christian Values

Love One another as I have loved you (John chapter 13 verse 34)

As a Church of England school, Christian values underpin our ethos: the way that we behave and treat others. Our school aim of; 'Learning in faith', and our five core values of Forgiveness, Friendship, Perseverance, Thankfulness and Trust, permeate all areas of school life.

As a Church school, we reinforce British Values through our collective worship. We have close links with our local church (St. Mary's), where children experience Christian worship throughout the year.

Throughout our RE curriculum, we promote British values through valuing a wide range of faith communities.

We believe that our Christian identity plays an important role in upholding British Values within our school community.

British Values

Democracy

The Rule of the Law

Individual Liberty

Mutual Respect

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs

British and Christian values are regularly promoted through high quality teaching, assemblies, our PSHE/PSED Curriculum, and a Behaviour Policy which allows pupils to develop and demonstrate skills and attributes that will allow them to contribute positively to life in Modern Britain.

These values are modelled, reinforced and studied in the following ways:



LEARNING IN FAITH TRUST FORGIVENESS THANKFULNESS PERSEVERANCE FRIENDSHIP



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Democracy:

Article 15 "Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights".

- Democracy is widespread within the school.
- By class consensus, each year, the children decide upon their class rules, and the rights and responsibilities associated with these rules. All children are encouraged to contribute
- to the running of their classrooms and the school. This begins in Early Years where children are introduced to the idea of 'fairness' by having equal turns, children are given a voice through voting for what they would like to have, for example in the role play area, and what they would like to learn about. This continues as children progress through the school where they have many other opportunities for their voices to be heard, including the opportunity to express their opinions and vote on other topics in class.
- We have a school council, which meets regularly, to discuss a variety of issues. Each class has a school council representative and they are nominated by, and voted for, by their class. Candidates in KS2 give a speech to their peers outlining why they should be elected onto the council. The school council have been instrumental in deciding upon, and voting for, a charity to support, and in organising charity activities to raise money.
- When children reach Yr.5 this democratic process extends to include election to other roles: school ambassadors, house captains and playground buddies. In Yr. 6 a Head boy and Head girl are elected. A rota is drawn up each year giving every child in Y6 specific responsibility for organising and supporting specific aspects of school life.
- Children are taught about aspects of democracy during history topics, through engaging in debates and discussions about topics in our curriculum, and day to day life of school as opportunities arrive



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The Rule of Law:

Article 28 "Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity."

- The importance of Laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout normal school days, and permeate much of the structures and expectations that we have at School. In Early Years the importance of laws is instilled, and how they help us to respect each other during everyday interactions, and through the reward systems which recognise this. They are referred to by children and staff throughout the day, and are underpinned by our School Values of Friendship, Forgiveness and Trust.
- School rules, and the Behaviour Policy, are promoted in a way that makes children clearly responsible for their own actions. They are helped to understand that rules and laws exist to provide a fair society for all, and to ensure the smooth running of our school and the wider community.
- Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind the rules and law: that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. We work closely with parents to encourage their understanding and support so that the children know that the adults around them are consistent in their expectations.
- Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty:

Article 12 "Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and have their opinions taken into account."

- Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons, as well as visits from the NSPPC.
- At School we encourage pupils to make informed choices. From the earliest stages of their education in the Early Years, where the children start to learn to choose an activity; pupils have opportunity to influence their learning experience throughout the school: whether this be through the choice of challenge, choosing books from the library or participation in our extra-curricular clubs and opportunities.

Mutual Respect:



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Article 30 "Children have a right to learn the language and customs of their families whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not."

- As a Church of England school, Christian values underpin our ethos.
- We reinforce British Values through our collective worship.
- The pupils know and understand it is expected of them, and imperative, that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences they may have.
- Respecting ourselves, our surroundings and others (including the opinions of others) is key for us. It is promoted and encouraged in everything that we do at School.
- These behaviours are modelled by staff, explained and demonstrated in assemblies and praised whenever possible.
- There is both formal and informal teaching to encourage anti-bullying attitudes, including Cyber-bullying for the older pupils. The basis of class discussions as a part of the S.M.S.C. (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural) curriculum e.g. during R.E., History, Geography, PSHE/PSED is respect, whether Respecting God (Valuing all God's Children), Respecting Others or Respecting Ourselves.
- Opportunities in dance, drama and music give our children the chance to learn different cultural songs and dance, and to work through scenarios where their respect for themselves or others is challenged.
- Our children are encouraged to take on a wider role in our community through contributing to seasonal festivals and community events.
- Our school values of Friendship, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Thankfulness and Trust place mutual respect at the very centre of our school.
- Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others.
- All members of the school community are expected to treat each other with respect.



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Tolerance of those with different Faiths and Beliefs:

Article 14 "Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters."

- This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Although we are a small rural Church of England School, our community is becoming more diverse with several Christian families coming from other cultures/countries and has a number of children from different faiths. However, although founded on the Christian faith, the school recognises the importance of teaching our pupils mutual respect for those of different or of no faith, and of helping them to understand the similarities of the core principles.
- In our rural village community, it is not only important to make opportunities for pupils to visit other faiths places of worship, but also to ensure that the teaching of Religious Education is of a high quality and allows the children to explore difference, similarity and tolerance in other major faiths.
- Visits to local places of worship are beginning to happen regularly [Gurdwara in 2016, Synagogue and Mosque in 2017], as are visits from members of other faith communities [Jewish, Hindu and Muslim in 2016], and both visitors, pupils, and parents are invited to talk about their faith and culture within the classroom setting.

In summary:

Westcott School recognises its duty to prepare its pupils for life in modern Britain – that living in a local, national and international community, will require them to both understand and appreciate difference, whilst maintaining a shared sense of the structures that are needed to keep individuals and the community safe.

To be reviewed by: January 2023