



A Beacon Of Hope On The Hill; A Small School Making A Big Difference

CHRISTIAN VALUES

The Christian values and principles we adhere to as a school identify us as a community and confirm the ethos and culture promoted. The 6 values chosen have been carefully selected by the community so that everyone understands the purpose and meaning of each, and is clear about individual and collective responsibility towards upholding such principles. These values will be depicted in the school hall and in each classroom around the school. We are reminded to give focus and context to the values during our times of collective worship.

The values chosen for us as a school at Dundry are:

Trust, Friendship, Hope, Community, Creativity and Compassion.

Each term we shall send home some information about each of the values that we hold dear, in order to have a shared understanding of what each one looks like for us as a Church school.

This term's information is based on:

Compassion

'Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry for' someone. The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering' with someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. This leads to a desire to act, to do something. It is not patronizing. It is not about 'doing good' from a position of strength or 'remembering those less fortunate than ourselves'. Compassion requires an act of imagination and humility to share in the lives of others. Notice the qualities that Paul links together. He says 'clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' (Colossians 3:12)

Jesus showed compassion towards the 'harassed and helpless' crowds (Matthew 9.36) and his works of healing were always prompted by compassion for people's suffering. He wept at the death of Lazarus and was moved to act.

The father in the parable of the Prodigal Son is not just forgiving. He is described as being filled with compassion. 'But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.' (Luke 15:20) The father seems to understand everything that his son is feeling and responds by giving him everything he needs: a whole-hearted welcome, acceptance and love.

Christians have always had to wrestle with the problem of how a loving God could allow there to be evil and suffering in the world. There is no simple answer to this but we make the first step towards understanding when we grasp the idea that God the Father is not passively observing the suffering of the world from the outside. God fully identified with human suffering in the life and death of Jesus and continues to work to transform the sufferings of the world through the work of the Holy Spirit.



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