



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:

Community

The use of the original Greek work emphasises the strength and importance of this concept within the Christian faith.

Koinonia means 'that which is in common' and is often translated as 'fellowship' or 'community'. Other translations might include 'union', 'partnership', or 'being yoked together'. A yoke is a shaped piece of wood that goes across the shoulders, often lining two animals. By combining their strength, it helps work to be done and burdens to be carried.

Koinonia expresses the quality of relationship within the Christian community. It is based on fellowship with Jesus. Through him, Christians share the relationship that Jesus has with God. In John 17, Jesus prays that all his followers may be 'perfectly one' as he and the Father are one. Through him, Christians become sons and daughters of God and therefore brothers and sisters of each other. They are all members of the same family. A central element of being a family is interdependence: all are needed and valued and each person is important to the whole. The same message is found in Paul's image of the Christian community as the body of Christ. Each member of the body shares the joys and sufferings of the others and each depends upon everyone else.

The foundation of Christian koinonia is Christ's self-giving on the cross, the supreme demonstration of his love for all. We love because he loved us first.



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For the first Christians, this was expressed in a genuine common life with shared meals, shared possessions and practical support for the poor. The Christian church today continues to serve not only those within the Christian community but any who are in need.