



## 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 Christian school.

This term's information is based on Hope:

#### Hope

The Christian understanding of hope illustrates how trivial our everyday use of the word can be. We hope that it will not rain for the school sports day, or that the car will start or that the parcel will arrive tomorrow.

At a deeper level, hope is a universal human phenomenon. People hope for peace in time of war; food in time of famine; justice in time of oppression. Where hope is lost there is despair. Hope generates energy and sustains people through difficult times. For some people, hope is so strong that it inspires us to turn hope into reality.

True hope is much more than a general idea that things will get better. It is more than a belief in progress, which sees the world and people as getting better all the time, growing away from violence, ignorance and confusion. There has, of course, been genuine progress: in technology, in communications, in medical care and in the protection of people's rights through the law. Nevertheless, terror and oppression, death and disease, greed and self-serving still govern the lives of millions.

Christian hope is grounded in the character of God. Often, in the Psalms, the writer says to God: 'My hope is in you'. It is a hope rooted in the love and faithfulness of God. Hope is not wishful thinking but a firm assurance that God can be relied upon. It does not remove the need for 'waiting upon the Lord' but there is underlying confidence that God is a 'strong rock' and one whose promises can be trusted. The writer to the Hebrews describes the Christian hope as 'an anchor for the soul, firm and secure'. Even when experiencing exile, persecution, doubt or darkness, the Biblical writers trust in God's 'unfailing love' and know that he will be true to his covenant promises. That is the basis of their hope.

Hope is not always spontaneous or easy. There is work to be done. As well as trusting God, we have to develop qualities of steadfastness in our own character. Paul says: 'We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character and hope.' (Romans 5:3-4)

Hope is coupled with faith and love as one of the three most enduring gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 13:13).