

Foreword To All School Policies

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Policy Prepared By: Head Teacher

Rationale

The following pages are the foreword to all of our school policies and should be read before every policy as they place our work in its full context.

Fundamental Principle

Everything which happens at our school is underpinned by:

- Our Mission Statement
- The Spirit of Bishop Aldhelm's
- Our Vision Statement
- Our Curriculum Statement – A Learning Adventure Without Horizons
- Our School's Values – **Love, Unity, Inspiration and Courage**
- Safeguarding
- Equal Opportunities and Inclusion
- United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child

These form the cornerstone of all of our policies and practice.

Our Mission Statement

Our school Mission Statement is '**Loved by God  United in Learning**'. Any school's 'Mission Statement' (or 'strapline' as it is more often known) is designed to succinctly state ('capture') what the school stands for and what the school represents to everyone who is part of the school family. Our Mission Statement captures precisely 'what it means to be a church school' for us, namely that our school is a place where:

a) God's love is known ... *and where* ...

b) There is unstinting rigour and there are high expectations.

At Bishop Aldhelm's this unstinting rigour and these high expectations are delivered with love and within the context of our school values.

The Spirit Of Bishop Aldhelm's

The 'Spirit of Bishop Aldhelm's' describes the ethos which is at the core of all of our work:

The Spirit of Bishop Aldhelm's, which you will experience as you spend time in our school, is to ensure that everybody associated with our school:

- is known and valued for being a very special person

Bishop Aldhelm's Church Of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

- has the self-belief of 'I can'
- feels a sense of self-worth and non-arrogant self-pride
- knows that their contribution is valued
- is in full contact with their spiritual self and appreciates that there is far more to existence than the 'here and now'
- knows God and Jesus in their life and is secure in the knowledge that we are never alone in our lives in good or bad times
- leads their daily life as a witness to the Gospel by following Jesus' example of selfless love and service
- fully respects and seeks to learn more about the spectrum of faiths, cultures, creeds and ways of life which are celebrated in this country and throughout the world
- respects others
- develops empathy
- values learning
- values property
- takes pride in themselves, in their families, in their school and in the communities to which they belong – school, local, national and international
- gains skills to help them cope with life ... above all the skills of adaptability and positively embracing change
- sees the relevance of the information which they learn
- experiences fun and laughter yet appreciates that there are times when this is not appropriate
- understands the reasons behind social norms/expectations but is not afraid to 'be themselves'
- recognises that, as members of the global village, we have responsibilities and appreciates why we have these responsibilities ... understanding 'why' is vital if we hope to make a difference.
- is an active citizen who makes a valued and positive contribution
- is empowered to make informed choices
- appreciates, especially as they grow through the Primary years, that the world is not always a fair place and that life is not always just ... and we seek to ignite within children a desire to, in the best way that they can, make the world a better place
- is given coping strategies for the path ahead will not always be smooth or easy. For some in our community their current situations will not be straightforward and they will require these coping strategies now
- experiences opportunities for developing life skills and fostering a creative, innovative mind

A teacher holds a hand for a moment ... but holds a heart and can help shape a way of life ... for a lifetime.

The statements within our Spirit are all equally valued and important.

Our Vision Statement

We promise that every member of our school community is known, loved and valued for who they are.

We work tirelessly to ensure that every learner at Bishop Aldhelm's Church Of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School is enriched as a person by their experiences at our school. We are passionately committed to the notion that every moment spent in school must be a valuable, productive learning opportunity for every child. We are equally passionate and determined to make the learning opportunities which we provide deep, fun, memorable and meaningful. Happy learners are successful learners ... learning at Bishop Aldhelm's is an adventure without horizons. We constantly seek the views of children, parents and the wider community about how we can ensure that the learning opportunities which we provide are dynamic.

The christian ethos of our school, with care at its core, is an invaluable cornerstone of our mission. Children will learn so much about positive interpersonal relationships and about what in the world is of true intrinsic value. They will learn how conscience, self-control and respect for others are vital. We seek to help our learners become responsible members of society, committed to making God's world an even better place.

Our school is a safe environment where children can flourish spiritually, academically, physically, emotionally and aesthetically.

We are ambitious for all our learners while constantly promoting an understanding that everybody learns in different ways and at different rates. That is part of what makes each and every one of us unique and special. We pledge to personally support every learner to achieve their own optimum standards in terms of attainment and progress. We seek for children to become self-motivated in their desire to strive for their very best and to grow as resilient human beings able to tackle a range of challenging activities.

Our futures-based curriculum constantly evolves in order to prepare our learners to flourish with confidence both now and throughout their lives. Our curriculum has been carefully designed to cover both a wide spectrum of knowledge and 'real life skills'. By 'real life skills' we mean that we recognise how vital it is for children to apply what they have learned 'in real contexts' and to learn through these contexts too. We recognise that it is our role to teach and guide children as to how to prosper within society, how to apply knowledge and skills, how to interact with others, how to thrive within the world of work and our curriculum is enhanced through frequent opportunities for children to develop experience and confidence with such 'real life skills'. We hold that school must serve as preparation for future life in the 'real world'.

We promise that every member of our school community is known, loved and valued for who they are.

Our Curriculum Statement – A Learning Adventure Without Horizons

Bishop Aldhelm's Church Of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School is a very special place where learning is an adventure without horizons. We are proud of our curriculum which is varied, vibrant and exciting. Many of our lessons are cross-curricular.

We enjoy providing a broad, balanced and fun curriculum experience which meets the needs of every single child. Every child is known to us as an individual and our learning and teaching is tailored accordingly to meet the needs, interest and enjoyment of everyone.

Our vibrant curriculum has a focus on Futures Education ... preparing children for the ever smaller Global Village in which they lead their lives. It is the responsibility of schools to equip children with the skills which they need both now and in the future ... and our curriculum is full of opportunities for children to develop skills for life.

... so step on board and enjoy a learning adventure without horizons (without horizons because there are no limits or boundaries to what is possible at Bishop Aldhelm's).

Our School's Values

Through their experiences at our school, children and adults learn about God's love and gain a real understanding of our school values both within the context of our caring, Christian-based environment and within the wider world.

Our school values were determined by the whole school community at the beginning of September 2013.

Our values are embedded in all aspects of the school's life, not just R.E. and Worship. Our school's values are explored and referenced across the curriculum frequently. Vitally as a church school, what makes our values 'Christian values' is that they are linked to Christianity and placed within a Christian context.

Our Values are:

Love
Unity - Inspiration - Courage

Love is our overarching value; everything that happens here is done with and through love.

A graphic to represent our 'Bishop Aldhelm's Values' all taken together is:



A film clip which captures our values is accessible from the home page of our school website.

Safeguarding

Bishop Aldhelm's Church Of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our children.

This unequivocal principle underpins all aspects of every policy.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of all learners / stakeholders is inherent in all school policies and practice. Stakeholders must seek every opportunity to develop and enrich the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural understanding and appreciation of all members of our school family.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

All children are given equal opportunities at our school irrespective of race, gender, creed, nationality or level of ability. Mutual respect and tolerance for all is promoted at Bishop Aldhelm's Church Of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School.

United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child

We work closely with the School Council, hearing and responding to its views and opinions, as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.