

# **St Leonard's VA Lower School**

## **Values Education Policy**



### **Aim**

To raise standards by promoting a Christians ethos which is underpinned by core values that support the development of the whole child, as a reflective learner.

### **Rationale**

At St Leonard's Lower School, we reflect consistently on the values that we are trying to promote in school. We regularly consider our core values and how the school sustains an ethos, which supports the pupil as a reflective learner and promotes quality teaching and learning. We are so very aware that society is faced with enormously complicated problems, which makes growing up a very difficult process.

Children are constantly bombarded with negative messages, which adversely affect their mental, emotional and spiritual development. Also, they are repeatedly being given the impression that happiness is totally obtainable from a material world. They are conditioned to believe that 'things' will provide happiness. For example, advertisements encourage children to believe that the only source of entertainment is derived from the television or video! They are generally encouraged to experience life in a world totally external to their inner-selves: a world which is full of noise and constant activity.

Impressions of society being violent and selfish leave their mark as the child develops into adolescence. Symptoms of pupil stress are seen as children finding it difficult to listen attentively and to give school work their full concentration. Social relationships suffer as the child often fails to appreciate that building meaningful relationships is their responsibility.

As a school community, we believe the ethos of the school should be built on a foundation of core Christian values such as honesty, respect, happiness, responsibility and peace. These will at times be addressed directly through lessons and the acts of worship programme, whilst at others they will permeate the whole curriculum. Either way, they are the basis for the social, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and moral development of the whole child. We encourage pupils to consider these values, thereby developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to develop as reflective learners and grow to be stable, educated and civil adults.

### **Elements of Teaching and Learning**

The elements of Values Education are as follows:

- Ensuring that at St Leonard's Lower our institutional values are consistent with the values that pupils are encouraged to develop.
- Actively promoting a whole school policy that wins the support of both teaching and non-teaching staff and is led and monitored by the Values Education leader.
- Introducing monthly values through a programme of collective worship. The children are encouraged to be involved in exploring their understanding of values in collective worship.
- Directly teaching about values in PSHCE lessons.
- Ensuring that staff members model the values through their own behaviour.
- Ensuring that values are taught implicitly through every aspect of the curriculum.

Our School Values were agreed through consultation with staff, parents and children. They are:

<b>RESPECT</b>	<b>FRIENDSHIP</b>	<b>TRUST</b>
<b>PERSEVERANCE</b>	<b>GENEROSITY</b>	<b>COMPASSION</b>
<b>FORGIVENESS</b>	<b>JUSTICE</b>	<b>THANKFULNESS</b>
<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>TRUTHFULNESS</b>	<b>COURAGE</b>

### **Collective Worship**

Each core value is introduced to the whole school in Collective Worship. This may be in the form of a fictional story, a real life story, an image or from a bible reading. The aim is to illustrate the meaning of the value and give examples of how this is demonstrated by people or individuals through their experiences and situations. Further collective worship opportunities take place weekly to further promote and explore the value. During collective worship there are opportunities for quiet reflection.

### **Ethos**

We aim to maintain an ethos in our classrooms and school environment that is positive and all-inclusive. Class management is in line with the values being taught. In a safe environment, children feel secure and able to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences

which are always welcomed and valued. Children recognise adults in school as important role models.

### **Display**

The current value is displayed prominently around the school and in classrooms. Each classroom will display a value of the month poster and reflection on what the value means to the children in the class. A display of values is in the hall. Home School Values information sheets are shared with parents via the weekly newsletter.

### **Reflection**

Quiet reflection is practised regularly in classes and collective worship. This is a period of silence for simple reflection during which the children are asked to consider something specific. This develops positive thinking, the imaginative side of the brain promoting creativity and problem-solving as well as relaxation and focusing of the mind. The reflection always has an aim and teachers and adults are the primary participants and role models for the pupils. Regular practice of quiet reflection helps to create a positive and calm atmosphere in the class and in assemblies.

### **Story-telling**

Stories are used in classrooms and assemblies to demonstrate the values and act as a stimulus. This is an all-inclusive approach and encourages empathy and inspires children.

### **Lessons**

The values are also taught through cross-curricular subjects, for example PSHE (personal, social and health education), SEAL (social and emotional aspects of learning) and in literacy stories, history etc. Teachers frequently refer to the values throughout the course of the school day pointing out their relevance to children's learning and behaviour.

### **Rewards**

Staff reward children who demonstrate the values in many ways, most commonly by verbal praise but other examples of reward include: values award on class values tree, house points, responsibilities, Star of the Week, Headteacher Award.

### **Role Models**

All staff in school model the core values and maintain a positive attitude. We recognise the need to act consistently in line with the values we wish to teach and to demonstrate this in our relationship with other staff, pupils and parents.

Policy reviewed November 2022