



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 Friendship:

Friendship

Friendship is an undisputed value in our society, with children often spending more time with their friends than with family. It is a key concept in the Christian framework, with Jesus being criticised for being 'the friend of sinners' and eating with those whom society rejected.

Sharing a meal with someone is an explicit sign of friendship and the word 'companion' literally means 'one with whom you share bread.'

The Bible has many sayings about friendship. 'A friend loves at all times.' (Proverbs 17:17)

Friends are not afraid to tell each other the truth and a friend's loving criticism is worth more than the empty compliments of someone who does not really care for you.

'Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.' (Proverbs 27:6)

The writer of Ecclesiastes puts it very simply: 'if one falls down, a friend can lift him up.' (Ecclesiastes 4:10)

The Friendship of David and Jonathan is very strongly emphasised in the Bible, Abraham is described as the friend of God (James 2:23) and Jesus explicitly calls his disciples not servants but friends (John 15: 14-15).

Trust, feeling comfortable in each other's company, being able to share joys and sorrows are all features of friendship and these are things of immense value. True friendship enables each person to grow and ensures that the unique individuality of each person is recognised. All this echoes the value placed by God on the preciousness of each person.

Hymns like 'What a friend we have in Jesus' point to a relationship that is at the heart of Christian belief. Knowing that God is our friend is to recover something of the acceptance and close companionship that people of all ages need and crave.