Leesland C of E Federation

Our Core Christian Values

"Two Schools, One Vision"

Approval By:	Full Governing Body
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Review Approved (signature): EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

ON BEHALF OF GOVERNING BODY

Date Approved: 26th March 2024

*Through our core Christian values, we aim to create an environment in which everybody feels **loved** enough to aspire to greatness, **respected** enough to build a community locally and globally, and **gracious** enough to include everyone on our journey to achieve a bright future for everyone.*

Our Core Christian Values

Love

Love is a core value for our church school because the Bible explicitly tells us that God is love and that those who live in love live in God and God lives in them (1 John 4:16).

In the Gospel according to Luke (10:25 - 37), Jesus teaches us, through the parable of the Good Samaritan, that God's love calls us to serve others freely without expectation of reward. Because all people are made in the image of God, this includes people who do not like us or who we do not like.

To carry the value of love in our hearts is to understand that "*love is patient and kind, love is eternal and love never gives up. It always trusts, always hopes and always continues strong*." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

Grace

Grace is a core value of our church school because the Christian message describes the generosity and kindness of Jesus in giving us His life so that we can try to be more like Him.

In Luke's Gospel (15:11-31) Jesus says, '*The eldest son was lost but now he has been found.*' This is described in the story of the Prodigal Son when a father forgives his son although he was seen as undeserving.

To act with grace is to display unconditional generosity and kindness. To show care for others even when you believe they do not deserve it.

Respect

Respect is a core Christian value for our church school because we believe that all life is precious, within the image of God, and deserves to be valued. Within the school we encourage all, "*to treat others as you would want them to treat you."* (Matthew 7:12)

Jesus broke down social, cultural and religious barriers. For example, He spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well when she served Him a drink, which overcame prejudice. (John 4: 7-10)

Our Christian value of respect means living up to the image of God within ourselves, our school and in our community.



Relevant documents relating to our Core Christian Values:

Living in Love and Faith; Church of England; 2020
Valuing All God's Children; Church of England; 2019

The Good Samaritan

One day, a Jewish man set off on a long and tiring journey from Jerusalem to Jericho. As he strolled along the road, two thieves jumped out from their hiding place in the hills. They stole all of the Jewish man's belongings, including his clothes. Then, they hurt him and ran away. The Jewish man was so injured that he could not move.



A short while later, a priest walked by and saw the injured Jewish man on the ground. The priest did not help him. Instead, he just walked away.



The next traveller to pass by was a Levite who helped at the temple. Even though he saw the Jewish man, the Levite did not help. He just walked away.

Soon, a Samaritan walked by and saw the hurt Jewish man. At the time, Samaritans and Jewish people did not get along because they had very different beliefs. This meant that Samaritans and Jewish people often treated each other badly. However, this Samaritan still wanted to help the Jewish man and did not want to leave him.



The Samaritan covered the Jewish man with his cloak, put him onto his donkey and took him to a nearby inn.



The Samaritan bought medicine, wine, oil and bandages to help to heal the Jewish man.

Even though Samaritans and Jewish people did not often get along, the Samaritan showed real kindness. He was a true neighbour to a stranger.

The Prodigal Son

Jesus taught everyone about God's love and explained how he could heal people from sickness, perform miracles and raise people from the dead. Many people would come to listen to Jesus, including tax collectors and people who made bad choices. This made the Jewish leaders mad because they didn't think he should be around those kinds of people so Jesus told them a story.

There was once a man who had two sons. One day, the youngest son asked his father for his inheritance money - this is money or property passed on to a child after the death of a parent.

The father thought about it and divided what he owned between them, giving his sons their inheritance.

The youngest son moved far away and very soon spent all of his money and had no friends

He was very hungry and had no place to live, so he decided to get a job. He was given a job feeding pigs but no one gave him anything to eat.

The son was very sad and very sorry for what he had done. Back home, even his father's hired men were fed well. He decided to go back home, say sorry and ask his father for a job as a servant.



When the father saw his youngest son returning, he was filled with great joy and ran to greet his returning son. He hugged and kissed the boy.

The father dressed him up in the best robe, some new sandals and put a ring on his finger. The father was so happy that his son had returned that he threw a great feast to celebrate!

While the younger brother had been away, the older brother had been working hard for his father and saved all of his inheritance. When he heard that his brother had returned with nothing and a great feast was being thrown for him, he felt very angry and jealous.

But the father did not want his son to be jealous and angry.

"We must celebrate and rejoice," he told his older son, "because it is as if this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."



The Woman at the well



One day, Jesus visited a town in Samaria.

He was tired from the journey and sat down by Jacob's well to rest.

It was the middle of the day, and the sun was very hot



A Samaritan woman came to fetch some water.

She went in the middle of the day so that no one would see her.

She was embarrassed by some things she had done.

She was surprised when Jesus spoke to her.



Jesus asked her for water.

Jesus told her about the things that she had done.

He said that He was the living water and the most important thing people need.

The woman couldn't believe that she had met the Messiah.



The Samaritan woman ran to tell all her friends about Jesus.

Many other people listened to her and put their trust in Jesus.

The people said, "We really know Jesus is the Saviour of the world."