

A Parent's Guide To Our School Values

Do **everything** in



“ Stand firm in the faith, be **courageous**, be **strong**, do everything in **love** ”



Introduction

Our Christian Values are at the centre of everything we do at Trinity and St Michael's Church of England & Methodist Primary School (TSM). They help us to learn how to 'do everything in love and live life in all its fullness' by shaping our attitudes and behaviours. Each half term, we focus on a different Christian Value. This is done explicitly through our Collective Worship, but also through our curriculum especially RE and PSRHE. Children have regular opportunities to reflect on each value and develop an understanding of the value in action. Each Friday, in our Prayer and Praise Worship, we acknowledge children who have demonstrated these values and also share examples of people, discovered across the curriculum, who have also demonstrated our values in action.

As a Church of England and Methodist Primary School, we have very close connections with St Michael's and All Angels Anglican Church and Trinity Methodist Church in our village of Coston. Our chaplains and visitors from church regularly lead our worship to help us to reinforce our understanding of each value as they share stories from the Bible.

We believe our Christian values form the framework on which our school community is built. Our values are embedded in our actions and attitudes, our planning and in our policies. Our key values help us to explicitly live out a life inspired by that of Jesus. They colour and shape our character, our ethos, our aims and the learning experience of all members of our school community.

Although we are always mindful of our 7 core values, we also cover the values of, generosity and service, trust and truthfulness to help cement our Christian foundations. Love is covered as a value in its own right but it is also referred to as the value that is threaded through all other values. "Love is more important than anything else. It's what ties everything completely together." (Colossians 3:14)

The core values we explore are:

Friendship

Perseverance

Courage

Respect

Compassion

Thankfulness

Forgiveness

Love

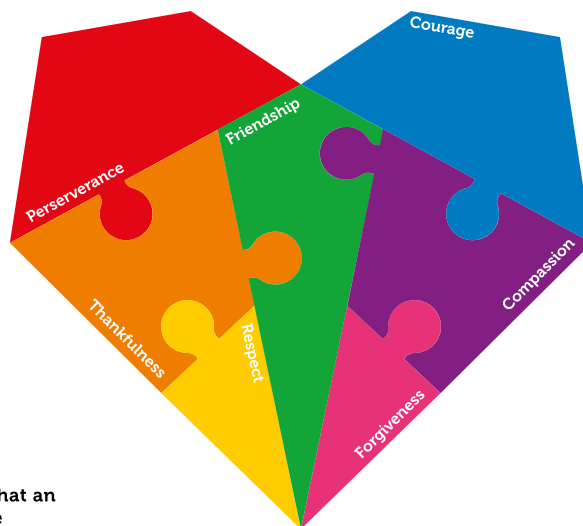
At TSM we believe our core values empower our pupils to develop their spirituality and guide their personal development as effective learners and good citizens. For more information on how to support your child, please view the Home School Values sheets.

For each value in Home School Values a colourful double-sided A4 sheet is packed full of fun things to do together as a family.

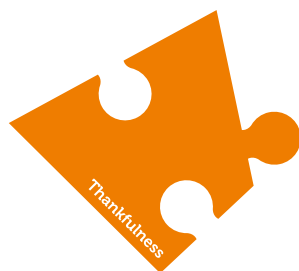
Our School Values



Perseverance, closely linked with courage, can be found every day in each class at TSM. The children's understanding that they must not give up and commit to a task is discussed regularly when tackling new topics in any subject. Pupils at TSM understand that this is not done alone, and we must encourage one another to persevere.



At TSM we believe in giving pupils the courage to believe in themselves, no matter how insignificant the task may seemingly be. It is important that pupils understand that courage does not only refer to great, bold acts but can be found in the everyday actions that we do in school.



Following Jesus example, at TSM we believe that an attitude of thankfulness comes from an active appreciation of what we have. We take time to reflect upon the many blessings that we enjoy acknowledging that some people in our own community, country as well as in the wider world do not have access to basic necessities such as clean air and space and time to play, education, adequate health care, communication technology or even a healthy diet. We allow pupils the opportunity to work for a more just world out of an attitude of thankfulness for all we have.



Pupils are taught to understand the compassion and kindness Jesus showed to those who were suffering or unhappy and follow his example. Children will understand that offering help, caring for others and being sensitive to those who may be suffering not only makes others happier but also creates a fulfillment within ourselves.



The importance of respect, what it means and how it is shown, is discussed regularly with the pupils at TSM. Respecting others starts with self-respect and we at TSM help each other to see the good in one another, building each other up and instilling self-respect. Respect is a word seen regularly on our Code of Conduct (our school rules) and we ensure that children understand that they must give respect to others in order to be respected back.



At TSM we explore together, what friendship with Jesus means for Christians. Jesus' example of self-sacrificial love and commitment to his friends is one that inspires us to place the needs of others above our own and make our friendships faithful and resilient. We encourage an attitude of inclusivity and openness to others, regardless of religious, ethnic or socio-economic background.



At TSM we understand that all people can make mistakes, and this is not necessarily a weakness. We help pupils understand that forgiveness is not just about saying sorry but rather understanding and empathising with others. We therefore teach those who have made mistakes to learn from these mistakes and those who have been wronged to forgive. Without true forgiveness it is impossible to move on from any incident and, in following Jesus's example, we ensure we are always ready to turn the other cheek and move on.

Deuteronomy 31. 6: Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

2 Timothy 1. 7: For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love and self-discipline

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says, 'I'll try again tomorrow'. Mary Anne Radmacher

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Colossians 3.12: Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Luke 10.25-37: (The story of the Good Samaritan)

Matthew 7.12: Treat others as you want them to treat you.

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If YOU want to be happy, practice compassion. Dalai Lama

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Compassion



1 John 1.9: But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.

Mark 11.25: If you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you.

When you forgive, you don't change the past, but you do change the future.
Bernard Meltzer

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John 15.15: 'I no longer call you servants', said Jesus...
'Instead, I have called you friends.'

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Friendship



Perseverance

Hebrews 12.1:
Let us run with perseverance the race
marked out for us that is before us.

Deuteronomy 13.6: The Lord your God goes with you; he
will never leave you or forsake you.

Fall seven times, stand up eight. Japanese Proverb.

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Respect

Mark 10.14: Let the children come to me.

Matthew 10.29: Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.

Nobody can be happy without self-respect. Rousseau

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Luke 22.19: Jesus broke bread and gave thanks.

1 Chronicles 29.12: All things come from you and of your own do we give you.

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Thankfulness

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Our "Love" Thread

"God is love, and love comes from God"

(1 John 4:7)

God the Father loves us and he sent his son Jesus, to show us how to care for each other. Love is a core Christian value for our school, because in the Bible we learn that God is Love and that God showed how much he loves us unconditionally. We are also taught how we can love others, when he sent his son Jesus to live on earth. This was the ultimate expression of love.

"Let all that you do be done in love"

(1 Corinthians 16:14)

In our school, love forms the basis of all that we do. We share a love of learning, love for one another and love for the world that God made. We show love to each other through small acts of kindness and through encouraging others with kind words, remembering that God loves us and we can love ourselves and others.

"A New Commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another"

(John 13:34)

...do everything in love

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



What does TSM Love look like?

We know we are loved by God

You need to know what love is and that you are loved. And not just loved in a general kind of way, but deeply loved and unconditionally loved by God.

We learn to love ourselves

Learning to love ourselves prepares and helps us to love our neighbours.

We act with compassion and wish for peace

A heart that's moved by compassion cannot sit idly by while someone suffers a need. We are moved to help others and to strive for peace in all we do.

We are thankful for what we have

'Count your blessings' is an old saying, but it reminds us to be thankful and not take things for granted.

We speak kindly, showing respect for others

Speaking words of encouragement to someone who's down or giving someone a compliment and telling someone you appreciate them. Showing respect for views and values is a way to show that we love others.

We share in joys and sorrows and have hope for the future

celebrating can be difficult for us at times, especially if someone is getting something we have longed for. As Christians we have to show up and be there with an open heart. We have to respect others and support their uniqueness. We also hope that our future will be brighter and wish this for others too.

Means forgiving

Forgiveness is freely given to us and we have to pass the forgiveness on. We all need forgiveness, so loving someone else is to forgive them as we have been forgiven.



Bible Stories that help us to understand Love

The Vine and Branches

(John 15:9-15)

Through the illustration of the grapevine, we see our relationship with God as life-giving and nourishing. We believe that love comes from having a heart that is connected to Jesus.

“We love because he first loved us”

(1 John 4:19)

Zacchaeus

(Luke 19:10)

This story helps us to remember that unkind, people still want to be loved even though they don't act like it.

“Love others as I have loved you”

(John 15:12)

The Good Samaritan

(Luke 10:26-37)

Love those in need. Jesus instructs us to 'love our neighbour as ourselves. Through this teaching we can help pupils to foster a heart of compassion and be able to act when others are in need.

...do everything in love

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

