



Philosophy and Values

If we believe that our main concern is to ensure that our children **flourish**,

See Jesus' affirmation of children:

Matthew 11:25

At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.'

Matthew 18:3 And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

make progress and achieve their potential in the widest sense, then all aspects of teaching and learning that are planned, and the climate within the school, are leading towards that vision. The values and philosophy we promote, underpin the management of the school, the curriculum, the ethos and the way we work together as a corporate unit. We aim to be a health promoting school, where everyone has the right to be heard and good mental, **spiritual** and physical well being of all children and staff is the key.

Look at Jesus wanting to bless the children as persons in their own right who belong to God's Kingdom. Blessing means God's favour and protection, and the well-being of the person, in body, mind and spirit.

Matthew 19:13-14

Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

Our success will be measured by attainments in standard tests and tasks, in achievement in the wider sense and in the happiness and emotional well being of our children.

Joy as one of the fruit of the spirit.

See Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Values will be based on our personal commitment to the school, our knowledge about the way children learn in general, and care for our children in particular, and research and evidence from the wider world of education.

We know that intelligence is not fixed and that potential is great, therefore we have high yet realistic expectations of the children whatever their background, race or gender, also bearing in mind their age within the year group.

We know there is a wide range of intelligences and that all children have something to offer the world. The children need to know this for the sake of their confidence (and) self esteem **and self worth**, a crucial factor in their learning and happiness.

Our worth comes from God's creative action:

We are created in God's image:

Genesis 1:27

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Psalm 139:13-14

Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;
you formed me in my mother's womb.
I thank you, High God—you're breathtaking!
Body and soul, I am marvelously made!

Our worth comes from God's love:

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

Our worth in Jesus' teaching:

Luke 12:7

Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

It is important, therefore to engage the children in as wide a range of activities and experiences as possible, and to acknowledge that learning involves our feelings and emotions as well as our ability to think and act.

We also aim to impart and teach Wisdom for living life unselfishly and well.

Wisdom as a way of life:

James 3:13-16

Do you want to be counted wise, to build a reputation for wisdom? Here's what you do: Live well, live wisely, live humbly. It's the way you live, not the way you talk, that counts.

Wisdom and Knowledge woven into God's tapestry of love:

Colossians 2:2-4

I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else.

We understand that children need motivation in order to learn and that self-esteem **and self worth** is vital for motivation.

Galatians 5:16

My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness.

We aim to plan learning activities which foster independence, confidence, **freedom** and responsibility and that have low stress yet high challenge. We aim to be a school where children have a voice and an input into how the school works.

Galatians 5:1 [The Life of Freedom] Christ has set us free to live a free life.

Taking responsibility for our lives

Galatians 6:5

Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life.

We know that learning takes place and is effective when children are given opportunities to think for themselves and are free to 'have a go', in a risk free environment.

It is important that children know what they are learning and why, and how each little bit fits into the 'big picture'. This helps children to know what to do to get better. It is in a positive nurturing ethos that children understand the skills they need in order to learn.

Crucial role of caring in Jesus' teaching:

Matthew 5:7

“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.”

Adults feel valued when their views are taken seriously, their training needs are discussed and understood and that they too are sometimes free to ‘have a go’. There is a climate of everyone learning and talking together. Collective teacher efficacy is a significant predictor of children’s achievements. Research shows that securing improvement comes through the hearts and minds of teachers.

Integrity of teachers:

2 Timothy 3:17

But don’t let it faze you. Stick with what you learned and believed, sure of the integrity of your teachers.

Value of teaching:

Deuteronomy 32:2

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

Teaching connected to life:

2 Timothy 3:10

You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance.

We need a shared sense of what achievement means. Effective headship includes the nurturing of leadership opportunities for teachers and also for children.

Parents are seen as partners in their children’s learning, giving and receiving information, talking and relating to teachers, trusting each other in their efforts to support the children.

Mutual relationship of parent and child:

Ephesians 6 1-4

Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. “Honour your father and mother” is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, “so you will live well and have a long life.” Fathers, don’t exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.

By our involvement with the local community e.g. neighbouring schools, churches, charities, neighbours, we demonstrate that we do not exist in isolation, but as part of the world.

As a Church of England School we particularly value our relationship with St Helen’s Parish Church and the support and input given by the Vicar and his staff team.

In conclusion, we want to be an inclusive school of equals(Everyone equal) **with equality** of education and training, **through** respect, love and care.

Colossians 3:10-11

Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, **everyone is included** in Christ.

Equality is vital:

Galatians 3:28-29

In Christ’s family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. **Among us you are all equal.** That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:17-18

Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. **He treated us as equals, and so made us equals.** Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.