

# VISION AND VALUES

## WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

### A STATEMENT OF OUR SCHOOL'S VALUES

Westbury-on-Severn Church of England Primary School seeks to demonstrate God's love, as it serves the community by providing outstanding and creative education in a Christian setting.

Believing that all people are created equal and loved by God, our school has a real and deep concern for each individual, rooted in a Christian ethos which welcomes and affirms everyone; all are to feel valued and each pupil is to have the very best opportunities for personal and educational development so that they may flourish.

Learning and teaching is to be of the highest quality and personalised in order to meet individual needs. This will lead to outstanding standards of achievement and the opportunity for each pupil to realise her or his God-given learning potential through demonstrating our core Christian value of perseverance. Through this, our school pupils will become confident, independent and happy lifelong learners, who take responsibility for their choices in a diverse and rapidly changing world.

Our school will promote the broadest possible personal development of pupils and staff. Spiritual, moral, social, cultural, physical, emotional and creative development will be set in the context of the school's Christian ethos and our own customised 'Westbury Curriculum'. Westbury-on-Severn Church of England Primary School will seek to stimulate in its pupils a real respect for, and generosity towards each other, along with honesty, integrity and forgiveness. These values will define the way we view the world, our personal relationships, and our vision for the school. Our school is a place where pupils and staff are cared for, trusted and where they learn to care for and trust one another through the demonstration of our core Christian value of friendship.

The nurture and development of children is achieved through partnership between the children, their parents and carers, the school, our local church community and a number of other agencies. As our school seeks to fulfil its own role in this process, it encourages parents and carers to see themselves as full partners in its work.

As we promote Christ's teaching that we should 'love one another as [Christ] has loved you,' care for one another within the school extends to care for people in need beyond our community. In aiming to be God's stewards of our environment and world, we also care for our environment by managing the school site and buildings in sustainable ways.

The Christian Faith is at the heart of our school, and so collective worship has a high priority in the school's daily life. Collective worship promotes the school's ethos and values. It is of high quality and is planned to engage all members of the school's community. We see collective worship as a catalyst for change in attitudes and behaviours and transformational in our approach to life together as a Westbury Family.

Our Church school's distinctive ethos and approach are offered to all. They are inclusive and form the basis for our vision of the purpose and development of the school as a Christian learning community.

# WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## A STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOL'S VISION FOR 2019

### OUR VISION:

Through our core Christian values of respect, friendship, perseverance and forgiveness, our Westbury family is one body, shaping the spirit, achieving together and learning for life, so that all may flourish as unique children of God.

### Theology of our vision:

#### **John 10:10(b) 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'**

At the core of this saying of Jesus, is His desire to provide all His people with an abundance, or overflowing, of all that life has to offer. As a school, this is our core purpose. 'Learning for life' is at the heart of our school curriculum. It is at the heart of all planning and decisions pertaining to learning. We want our pupils and all who work and learn to have life in all its fullness. For us, this means that everyone should have the opportunity to explore a broad and balanced curriculum that develops skills, knowledge and the core spiritual capacities of humanity. Altogether, this develops the wisdom that is needed to navigate a complex journey of life. For some, this will be in partnership with their God, for others, this will be in partnership with their own philosophies and views. In living out this purpose, all at our school need to enjoy the safety and security to be able to express all aspects of themselves. To this end, we will ensure that the pastoral provision in school is 'Christ-centred' and offers the space for spiritual as well as emotional growth.

**SIAMS Strands: Leadership and Vision. Wisdom, Skills and Knowledge. Religious Education. Collective Worship.**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:20 'There are many parts, but one body.'**

Paul's image of the body is powerful. It is an image of diversity and unity. As a school, we are all different and have a uniqueness as individuals created by God. However, we cannot and do not function individually, but together make up our 'Westbury School Family.' As such, each individual is valued, just as each part of the body is valued. Together, we support, encourage, develop and sustain each other through employing the Christian values that we have at our heart, namely: Respect, Friendship and Perseverance. Surrounded by God's love, these values shape and hone who we are individually, and collectively. Through working together, providing the necessary support and guidance, each member of our school family can flourish to achieve their full potential.

**SIAMS Strands: Leadership and Vision. Character development, Hope and Courageous Advocacy. Dignity and Respect, Community and Living well together**

### Christian underpinning of our Values:

- **Respect: Galatians 3:28 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'**
  - Recognising that all are made in the image of God. All are valued and are deserving of value. In the spirit of equality, all are treated equally and with dignity. This is seen in our behaviour, anti-bullying and safeguarding policies.
- **Friendship: Colossians 3:12-14 'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.'**

- Whilst Matthew 7:12 sums up the 'Golden Rule' in that it says: 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets' offering advice on how we should treat each other, Colossians offers a wider perspective about our relational behaviour towards each other. Through living well together and recognising the connection we have one to another, we deepen friendships and live out Christ's new commandment, that we love one another.
- **Perseverance: Philippians 3:14 'I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.'**
  - Resilience. 'Pressing on towards the goal' – whether that goal is set personally or by others. It is easy to give up or walk away from challenge, but through developing a Christ-like determination, we face challenges and keep going in God's strength and in the strength of one another – 'spurring each other on'.
- **Forgiveness: Colossians 3:12-14 'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.'**
  - Bound up in the value of Friendship, scripture here suggests that as part of this value we exercise a Christ-like inspired response to forgiveness. 'Forgive as the Lord forgave you, implies that forgiveness should be total and unconditional. Our ability and need to forgive is not dependent upon someone being prepared to be forgiven, but through the act of forgiveness, creates the doorway to reconciliation and restoration in our relationships. This becomes the cornerstone to our behaviour across the school community. Recognising that the need to forgive and ask for forgiveness can result from an act that can potentially break a relationship, it is important that forgiveness is seen as the primary mechanism for 'building bridges' between people. This is seen in Christ's crucifixion and the events surrounding the cross. This is the foundation of our church-school ethos and spirituality.