



Canon Burrows CE Primary & Nursery School
RE Policy

“Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.”

Deuteronomy 5:33

CHRISTIAN VALUES AT CANON BURROWS

Canon Burrows CE Primary School is a Church of England primary school that offers a distinctively Christian education in an inclusive environment where we encourage all children and young people to develop socially, morally, spiritually and academically.

Children and staff of all faiths and those of no faith are welcome at our school. We promote understanding, respect and tolerance between those of different faith traditions as well as those who do not follow a faith.

At Canon Burrows CE Primary School the promotion of Christian Values offers a spiritual and moral basis for developing the whole child. It offers a foundation for personal and social values based on the premise that every child is made in the image of God and is special, precious and unique.

Our chosen Christian values ensure that both pupils and adults understand the Biblical teachings of Jesus and their importance in school life. Gospel teachings are at the heart of the Christian vision for every pupil. The distinctive nature of our approach to education can be found in our explicit Christian values for example within collective worship, a grounded Christian ethos, our curriculum and within RE lessons.

Staff and pupils are inspired by our Christian values and strive for the highest standards and to have high aspirations for the future.

After pupil, parent, staff and governor consultations the school have 18 chosen values which are all of equal importance and reflect the school's Mission statement and Ethos; reverence, service, wisdom, compassion, trust, generosity, justice, forgiveness, peace, friendship, courage, creativity, truth, thanks, hope, perseverance, responsibility, humility. The school recognises that some of these values are sophisticated for primary school aged children.

There is a structured approach to teaching age-appropriate values at Canon Burrows through the curriculum, Collective Worship and reflection spaces in school. Staff also promote values intrinsically as opportunities arise; when a certain value is pertinent to an individual or group of children or is pertinent to local, national or global issues, for example a response of stewardship to a national disaster.

APPROACH AT CANON BURROWS

At Canon Burrows Christian values are promoted through;

- Teaching the meaning of each value
- Teachings of the Bible and other Sacred Books
- Asking a range of What if? questions go support the children to reflect on each value
- Stories from world faiths which illustrate the value
- Well known children's texts which re-inforce the value
- Taking advantage of every opportunity within the broad and balanced curriculum to emphasise the values and their teachings
- A cross curricular approach to support the understanding of our values in real-life contexts which they can relate to
- A comprehensive collective worship planning cycle which raises awareness of the aspects of each value
- All adults modelling moral language and choices, taking responsibility for their actions which helps pupils to internalise ideas of what is acceptable and not acceptable in the living working community of our school
- High expectations of conduct, attainment and behaviour rooted in the teaching of Jesus
- A whole school approach to the recognition and acknowledgement of living the values (value vouchers)
- Our Mission Statement and ethos
- Carefully planned opportunities to experience awe and wonder
- Opportunities for the children to question and reflect, particularly in RE

Our commitment to upholding these values alongside high expectations ensure that they and their true meaning become part of the children's moral substance equipping them to become global citizens of the future.

Courage

Steadfast, strength, boldness, fearless, valiant, bravery, bottle, spirit, nerve.

A Christian perspective on Courage

Basic to Christian faith is the claim that God is always present in every situation. This belief has led to great acts of courage that have included facing danger and opposition, overcoming fear, making a stand for what is right and encouraging others to persevere. Through prayer people have found the strength to help them to be courageous.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

Living our values:

- We help members of our school community who are facing difficult times through worship prayer, writing letters of support, raising funds, giving strength to others.
- We encourage others to share their fears and worries by listening, providing a secure environment, being respectful, showing compassion, giving people strength to face their fears.
- We demonstrate our core values to everyone in our school community and have the courage to remain true to them through our actions, behaviour and language.

Creativity

Inspiration, originality, imagination, invention, designer, artistry, creation, vision, maker.

A Christian Perspective on Creation and Creativity

Seen from a Christian perspective all of life is a 'gift', entrusted by a loving creator God to humankind for a purpose. This purpose is glimpsed as the creative spirit within each person learns to value and explore, celebrate and enjoy this world in all its mystery and diversity. With this gift comes a mutual responsibility to ensure the creation is not spoiled, but rather sustained and shared by all.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

- Our whole curriculum along with extra-curricular activities and specially organised events promote creativity and enjoyment.
- All pupils are encouraged to exercise responsibility towards their environment through caring for the local valley and school grounds, learning about sustainable development and healthy debate around ecological issues on a local, national and global level.
- All pupils experience and express feelings of awe and wonder at the beauty, power and mystery of God's world through carefully planned experiences through collective worship, the curriculum, working with inspirational visitors, exciting and thought provoking visits which develop the children's spirituality.

Peace

Tranquillity, friendship, untroubled, serenity, harmony, concord, quiet, unity, calm.

A Christian Perspective on Peace

Jesus said: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9). Peace-making actions can range from helping to resolve conflict to creating space for

stillness. Peace, in the sense of total well-being, is God's intention for the whole of creation, and is a promise that awaits ultimate fulfilment.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

- Children are encouraged to appreciate quietness and opportunities for calm reflection through the provision of quiet areas in the prayer area, the quiet garden and other school gardens, reflection areas in the classroom, in collective worship and enhancing the school environment for example: candles, music, fairy lights, display materials to ignite the senses.
- We encourage pupils to solve their differences in a constructive way, and to develop the skills of a peacemaker.
- We introduce children to the Christian concepts of 'peace with God' and 'the peace of God' through collective worship, pastoral care, mindfulness sessions, visiting church and church leaders visiting school and the RE curriculum.
- We introduce children to issues of peace and justice both locally and internationally through charity work, the curriculum, collective worship and class assemblies, pupil voice and addressing current affairs.

Trust

Faithfulness, relationship, commitment, dependable, confidence, voluntary, security, reliable, believe.

A Christian Perspective on Trust

Trust is the basis of all stable relationships, including a person's relationship with God. It is rooted in truth, and will grow through consistent experiences of reliability and integrity. God's commitment to humanity is seen in his willingness to trust ordinary people with the carrying out of his purposes through history.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

- Through the actions of adults (parents, staff, religious leaders, governors and visitors) in school such as: confidentiality, consistency, fairness, modelled behaviour, honesty and kindness, we show children practical ways of what it means to have trust in others.
- When trust is broken we sensitively demonstrate the repercussions through Bible stories, through stories with a moral message and providing examples of the consequences of their actions.

- We provide good examples of role models that demonstrate trust in our local community and in the wider world such as the emergency services, sports ambassadors, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King and Bear Grylls.

Forgiveness

Truthfulness, repentance, apologise, unfailing, freedom, pardon, costly, grace, sorry.

A Christian Perspective on Forgiveness

Forgiveness is the means by which damaged relationships are restored. It is an act of the will, motivated by love. For Christians, Jesus' death on a cross is the ultimate revelation of God's all forgiving love, and his sacrifice stands as a source of inspiration to forgive others, no matter what the cost.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

- Children and adults within our school community acknowledge that we all make mistakes and we all need forgiveness from God and each other through the teachings of Jesus for example the parables he taught, collective worship, reflection and prayer in collective worship and within the classroom, mediation between parties, within PSHE lessons.
- Our school celebrates the idea that God's love is so great that forgiveness is always possible through adults showing forgiveness, our school code states, "Forgive and forget and start each day afresh". We remember Jesus' message at Easter when he was on the cross, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do."

Justice

Fairness, rightful, honesty, virtue, judge even-handed, vindicate, impartial, openness.

A Christian Perspective on Justice

The justice revealed in the Bible is always seen in the context of love. It includes the call to take responsibility for one another, especially the poor and oppressed, and to see that no-one is excluded from the essentials of life.

Reflecting as Whole School Community

- We introduce children to issues of justice both locally and internationally through our charity work, the curriculum, collective worship and class assemblies. We address rights and responsibilities, current affairs and make analogies to Bible stories by considering those in need, for example, the flight of Mary and Joseph into Egypt and the plight of refugees
- Canon Burrows has a range of school councils that work to implement a Christian perspective on justice. Through the working of these councils pupils implement the

principles of Christian justice taking responsibility for each other in the school community and developing a sense of responsibility towards their “neighbours” near and far

- There are a range of strategies in place throughout the school to ensure that rules and procedures in the school are fair, even-handed, impartial and just. Many if not all of these strategies are devised and agreed upon by the children themselves through the school councils
- Canon Burrows works constantly to be an open and inclusive community for all. This is particularly developed through the school's PSHE curriculum and is reflected in our school's inclusive awards
- The school supports a wide range of charities with children raising money through their own stalls, donating gifts at special times such as the festivals of Easter and harvest and donating their own talents such as choir singing for residents of local homes at Christmas

Thankfulness

Thanksgiving, appreciative, gratitude, response, grateful, blessing, worship, praise, grace.

A Christian Perspective on Thankfulness

Christians believe that God loves and cares for them in many different ways in all aspects of their life. They know that their response to this provision should be one of thankfulness and praise.

- We foster an attitude within and beyond school of appreciation and thankfulness for our world. This is done by and with all members of our school community. We do this through the way we conduct ourselves
- The school raises the consciousness of being thankful for those things we often take for granted in a variety of ways including through acts of charity and responding to local, national and world events.
- We encourage children to show gratitude to in practical ways through acts of worship and actions such as caring for our environment
- We give thanks for our school community, and new members of our school community, with special services and events including welcoming new reception children to school and assemblies and services for staff who retire or move on.
- Our acts of collective worship, prayer corners, and school displays throughout school offer worship and praise to God

Compassion

Helpfulness, sympathetic, gentleness, tenderness, empathy, protect, loving, caring, mercy.

A Christian Perspective on Compassion

Christians believe that their attitudes and actions must reflect the kindness, mercy and compassion of Jesus and the love of God for everyone.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

- The school encourages members of the school community to show kindness and respect to one another through the examples set by adults in school, through learning about Jesus' teachings and within collective worship and classroom practice
- We foster links with compassionate charities such as those that work for the homeless and in need. We have many links with those less fortunate in our own community such as the elderly and unwell
- The school takes particular care, is helpful and caring, with new members of the school community who we work to nurture and support, particular in their early days and weeks in school. This includes new school starters in reception and nursery classes and new members to the school community who have come from afar such as refugees and asylum seekers
- Canon Burrows has trained and dedicated members staff to help, and encourage pupils who have suffered traumatic experiences such as bereavement.
- Sympathy, gentleness tenderness, empathy and care to others is taught through an inclusive curriculum and particularly through the RE curriculum focusing on the teachings of Jesus

Friendship

Understanding, togetherness, companion, neighbour, reconciler, harmony, sharing, unity, love.

A Christian Perspective on Friendship

Christians believe they can call God their friend because of the relationship made possible through Jesus.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

Some questions to consider:

- The school supports and encourages friendship bonds by providing opportunities for children to work cooperatively and collaboratively in pairs and in groups both inside and outside of the classroom and exploring the conventions of friendships through collective worship, circle time, PSHE lessons, RE lessons and the promotion of value vouchers.
- The school provides support to and includes pupils who might be left out of friendship groups through circle time, assigning friendship buddies and nurture groups with the learning mentor.
- At Canon Burrows we help pupils to restore broken friendship through circle time, mediation with staff or older pupils, restorative justice and the promotion of forgiveness.

Hope

Encouragement, reassurance, expectation, optimism, fearless, promise, aspire, secure, faith

A Christian Perspective on Hope

Christians see their hope in God's promise "that love and goodness have, and will ultimately, overcome all evil". This hope is manifested in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

Some questions to consider:

- The school promotes a vision of a hopeful future. Children at Canon Burrows are empowered as citizens of the world who can make a difference. Children actively seek ways to play their part in creating a more sustainable environment and a better society through the Sustainable development curriculum, ECO work and ECO committee work, pupil voice and school council work and charity work.
- At Canon Burrows pupils are supported to understand that this citizenship brings challenges and responsibilities through the current affairs topics addressed through collective worship and the curriculum.

Truthfulness

Integrity, sincerity, guileless, openness, faithful, honesty, meaning, reality, good

A Christian Perspective on Truthfulness

Christians believe that truth is revealed in the Bible and supremely in the person and life of Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' teaching we are given an insight into the nature of God and the way in which He means us to live.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

Some questions to consider:

- At Canon Burrows all members of the school community are encouraged be truthful in their dealings with one another through the collective worship themes, the PSHE curriculum, through mediation with adults and through the school's open and honest approach detailed in the behaviour policy
- The school's distinctive Christian ethos, effective RE curriculum and Collective worship themes supports children to understand that life is about a search for truth and meaning.
- Children at Canon Burrows understand the concept of being true to oneself. Children are encouraged to develop as individuals. Staff ensure classrooms are safe and

secure environments where children are confident to express their own beliefs and children take pride in sharing their individuality and beliefs as lead learners

Humility

Servanthood, accepting, unselfish, modesty, regard, humble, worth, lowly, meek

A Christian Perspective on Humility

Christians believe that Jesus was both servant and king. He demonstrated this through His life, death and resurrection. Jesus taught his disciples what it means to be truly humble. Christians believe that they can serve God by demonstrating humility through their attitudes and actions. This approach to life runs contrary to many role models presented to children in the media and popular culture.

Reflecting as a Whole School Community

Some questions to consider:

- At Canon Burrows, we encourage members of the school community to learn to ask for help when we need it. We do not assume that we know everything but we encourage everybody to ask God to help us, if we choose. Humility is shown within many of the roles that take place within our school, such as: student helpers, school councillors, eco-team members, our school governing body and many more.
- Our school provides knowledge and experiences for all children. This enables a good understanding in life so that they can be empathetic to others and also sympathise and show compassion.
- Our schools vision is to care, respect and help others. We endeavour to show generosity of spirit, compassion and forgiveness. This will enable us all to create an ethos in which children and adults are confident in their environment to ask for help and to receive help from others.

Generosity

Hospitable, offering, bountiful, gracious, selfless, charity, lavish, giving, kind

A Christian Perspective on Generosity

God's generosity is best described as 'grace', love given freely without limit or conditions. This generosity, once experienced and acknowledged by an individual can in turn release a generous spirit towards others.

Reflecting as a whole school community

Some questions to consider:

- Our pupils give without thought of reward and without strings attached—just for the joy of giving and making someone else feel good. Generous acts at any time have a ripple effect, making the world a kinder, happier place.
- Many bible stories teach the concept of generosity, such as The Good Samaritan. Our children are encouraged to behave in a similar manner by giving their time, efforts or something tangible.

Reverence

Respect, consideration, courtesy, dignity, esteem, sacred, homage, grace, holy

A Christian Perspective on Respect and Reverence

The nature of God, as revealed in the Bible, presents all people with a choice. Those whose response is one of respect are acknowledging God's greatness, authority and involvement in the world. This will extend to respect for the created order, including humanity made in the image of God. Reverence takes this response a step further and will include aspects of worship such as awe and wonder, surrender and sacrifice.

Reflecting as a whole school community

Some questions to consider:

- Pupils are given the opportunities to experience feelings of awe, wonder and mystery which is inspired by contact with facts and events, the natural world, mystery of human achievement and to freely use imagination and to be creative. Canon Burrows strives to delight children e.g. re-enacting the nativity with real camels.
- Children show their respect for each other by treating members of the school community the way they would like to be treated. Pupils are encouraged to listen to each other, value others' opinions, be considerate of other people's likes and dislikes, be sensitive of others' feelings and show interest and appreciation for other cultures and backgrounds.
- The school's policies and practices are designed to engender respect for all members of the school community. They do this by ensuring they cover all aspects of school life, by being inclusive and ensuring that they reflect Christian values the teaching of Jesus.

Wisdom

Discernment, judgement, diplomacy, consider, impartial, balance, sense, skill, tact

A Christian Perspective on Wisdom

Christians believe that true wisdom comes from God. As a believer grows in faith so wisdom will increase. In the Bible wisdom is seen both as a gift from God and a characteristic of God. In his parables Jesus taught that placing trust in God and recognising what is of value in life brings fulfilment.

Reflecting as a whole school community

- At Canon Burrows, we teach the children that wisdom is not just about how clever someone is; it is about how we use our knowledge to make the right choices and decisions.
- Through the teaching of Bible stories and other Holy books in Collective Worship and RE lessons, we help the children to understand that God wants us to use our wisdom so that we can consider the consequences of our actions.
- Our broad and balanced curriculum also helps children through stories and poems
- In Collective Worship and through our charity work, we raise questions such as “What difference will we make to others?” How can we use wisdom to affect our thoughts, words and actions and an awareness of the true value of things. We seek to look beyond ourselves and use the benefits of education not only for our own enjoyment but also in the service of others, making a positive difference in the world.
- As values shape the character of this community we aspire to wisdom which will enable us to live well in the world. The learning we engage in raises awareness of our own privilege and bring with it a sense of appreciation and thankfulness.
- Through our strong links within the community, we have lots of people who are parent volunteers and volunteers from within the business community who share their skills and knowledge with our children.

Perseverance

A Christian Perspective on Perseverance

Jesus frequently encouraged his disciples to “endure patiently” the difficulties and obstacles they encountered and to persevere in the face of adversity. He himself trusted in God even when his enemies tried to stop his word and plotted his death.

Reflecting as a whole school community

- At Canon Burrows, we prepare the children to recognise that life is sometimes difficult and painful, and it is important to not give up in the face of adversity. It is important to note that perseverance is only possible where there is hope and support and through the enduring nature of God’s steadfast love. We help members of our school community who are facing difficult times through worship prayer, showing kindness and compassion to give strength to others to persevere.

- At Canon Burrows, we encourage children to make mistakes, to push themselves to try difficult ideas with the encouragement and love to realise that anything is possible. We help them to make the connection between hard work and success. For example, the difference between 'I am really pleased you got all your times tables right. You are so good at maths!' and 'I am so proud of your times tables. All that time practicing really paid off!' will hopefully connect perseverance with higher performance.
- Through weekly Celebration Praise, we celebrate the achievements of children who have won certificates, medals, awards etc. Staff make a point of referring to challenge and how if we persevere, we can achieve.

Service

Altruistic, unselfish, attentive, diligence, devotion, support, caring, giving help

A Christian Perspective on Service

Jesus exemplified in his person, ministry and relationship with God, what it was to be called the "servant king". Christians believe that their calling is to follow Jesus' example according to their gifts or abilities. They believe that through serving God in others, "perfect freedom" will ultimately be found.

Reflecting as a whole school community

- Words relating to 'servant' and 'service' are central in Christian theology. At Canon Burrows, we teach the children that Service is not offered to gain some advantage for ourselves. 'Going the extra mile' involves sacrifice, putting ourselves out for someone else's benefit.
- We use examples of the teachings of Jesus who saw Himself as a servant king who came to earth to serve mankind. An example of this is the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples.
- Service is demonstrated at Canon Burrows when the younger children are paired with older children as reading buddies, walking to church for whole school services - the older children are being 'of service' to the younger, offering support and encouragement as they learn to read or take part in whole school worship.
- Our play-leader system empowers the children to be 'of service' to other children – teaching them to play games, encourage teamwork and to instil our school games values.
- As a school, we advocate the use of lead learners as well as collaborative learning within Kagan Teams during lessons where children are encouraged to help, support and praise each other.

Responsibility

Accountable, leadership, conscience, thoughtful, authority, diligent, reliable, trust, duty

A Christian Perspective is Responsibility

The Bible teaches that life is a gift from God and it is our responsibility to use our talents and abilities in the best way we can.

Reflecting as a whole school community

- As a school, we advocate the use of lead learners within learning. Children are encouraged to help, support and praise each other to develop a growth mind-set as well as encourage each other to take responsibility for our own and each other's learning.
- As an award winning ECO flagship school, Canon Burrows is proactive in teaching the children about caring for the environment on a local, national and global level. We teach the children about being responsible citizens have light and water monitors have Is there a whole school policy regarding responsibly for the environment?
- Pupil voice is paramount within our Christian ethos and we have a School Council, ECO Council and Sports Council to give our children responsibility to develop ideas, voice opinions and implement decisions which impact upon the whole school community.
- Through Collective worship, RE lessons and across the curriculum, children are encouraged to think about where responsibility lies for ethical issues that they encounter within their learning for examples, parables, stories with morals, non-fiction texts etc.
- Children are introduced to examples of responsibility when they are prepared to own up to something that they have done wrong, they care for a younger sibling or friend, when they represent the school as part of a team or choir on a special occasion or they have the job of looking after a pet, maybe at home or for the school.