



## Our Christian Distinctiveness

As a Church of England Primary School, Winmarleigh C of E Primary works hard to develop and sustain the school's Christian distinctiveness. We work in close partnership with Reverend Gary and the members of St. Luke's Church, Winmarleigh. We have also formed a Vision and Values Committee which involves Governors, Staff and children working together in order to nurture the school's Christian ethos and ensure Christian faith is manifested through every aspect of school life.

Our core values are: *hope, courage, friendship perseverance, forgiveness, respect and trust*. Although these values may be supported and shared by Christians and non-Christians alike, theological backgrounds and biblical references help to explore what is distinctively Christian about each value. We have chosen bible quotes which we feel express our values -

### **Hope**

*"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."*

Deuteronomy 31:8

### **Courage**

*"Be bold. Be brave. Be courageous."*

Joshua 1:9

### **Friendship**

*"A sweet friendship, refreshes the soul."*

Proverbs 27:9

### **Respect**

*"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honour"*

Romans 12:10

### **Perseverance**

*"Let us run with endurance, the race that is set before us."*

Hebrews 12:1

### **Forgiveness**

*"Forgive them even if they are not sorry."*

Mark 11:5

### **Respect**

*"Anyone can find the dirt in someone. Be the one who finds the gold."*

Proverbs 11:27

### **Trust**

*"My God is my strength in whom I trust"*

Psalms 18:2



We have daily collective worship. Reverend Gary also leads our worship once a week. Religious Education is a core subject at Winmarleigh C of E Primary School and is timetabled weekly. As a Church School, Christianity forms the major study in Religious Education lessons.

We also have a duty to foster an accurate and increasing understanding of religions and world views. As a result, pupils will gain greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They will also be able to appreciate the faith of others and develop a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and practices. These outcomes contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

Each classroom has a prayer space or 'reflection area' to enable children to explore faith and spirituality in a safe, creative and interactive way.

We have a dedicated prayer tree where pupils, parents, staff and visitors alike can write a prayer. These are then read aloud in Collective Worship and they are shared with St. Luke's prayer group.

## **Spirituality**

Our definition of Spirituality is:

*Spirituality - "Spirituality was generally viewed as enriching individuals in their understanding of and ability to relate to, others and of society as a whole".* Education for Adult Life (SCAA 1996)

Many people assume that spirituality is to do with Religious Education (RE) or PSCE and therefore it tends to be put into those boxes. However, the truth of the matter is that it should influence all areas of education and life. This is also clearly seen through our four key pillars:

- Love of Learning
- Love for oneself
- Love for each other
- Love of the world around us

It is also reflected through how we demonstrate our Christian values.

Therefore, here at Winmarleigh C of E Primary School, pupils are encouraged to:

- Ask big and challenging questions and seek fundamental answers
- Are inspired by our Vision and Values to achieve long term goals
- Are able to work against convention and show flexibility
- See connections between diverse things and are encouraged to be holistic in their view of the world
- Have an ethical life-style and are trustworthy
- Encouraged to show self-awareness and humility; put aside ego for the good of others
- Encouraged to grow in resilience and be brave
- To be courageous for others in social action



We do this through:

Physical Spaces: Such as our prayer tables in each class and in the hall for collective worship, displays, and our regular visits to our parish church St Luke's.

Subject Spaces: The links made between different subjects, the awe and wonder developed, and opportunities provided for children in every topic per half term. The focus on 'enquiry' based learning both in RE and through other subjects.

Spiritual Spaces: The focus on creativity in all our learning, the opportunities given to working with artists, poets, authors and faith leaders. We take our collective worship outdoors, where we can feel closer to nature and find a gentle peace. There are opportunities for moments of prayer, quiet and silence as a school and in class groups.