

Our Christian School

Our CHRISTIAN VALUES are central to all we think, do and say. They help us to grow together and make our school a happy place for learning.



LOVE

We expect all people to love their neighbour as Jesus loves us. In this way, we can forgive each other and make a fresh start, knowing inner peace.

RESPECT

Respect is fundamental; our school would not be the unique and special place it is today without a drive that respect should be at the core of what we do. Our Christian ethos makes this a very strong value in our school. Respect is far reaching - respect of self, of others, of the environment and of our world are key to building and growing a harmonious learning community. From the words we choose to use to the care we take of the equipment which supports learning, from the resolve to be inclusive and challenging in the face of discrimination to the emphasis on responsibility, team work and belonging, we believe our focus on respect can contribute to a better world for our children in the future.

DEVELOPING SPIRITUALITY – see Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural policy

COMMUNICATION

Communication is a vital skill. If children are to grow up, interact successfully and go on to lead happy, productive and successful lives, they must learn to communicate effectively. During their time at St Paul's, we teach children how to communicate orally, in writing, through use of their expression and body language and through the use of fast changing technology.

CREATIVITY

Creativity, in its very widest sense, is something we value greatly at Charlton Mackrell. We want children to understand process as well as outcomes. We want children to be innovative, confident and forward thinking, happy to calculate risk and push themselves to think outside the box and try things which are out of their own comfort zone. We aim to challenge children, make them think differently and encourage them to be resourceful learners with passion.

SELF BELIEF

Self-belief is crucial if we, as humans, are to achieve our potential. We acknowledge that there are times when self-belief is weakened and we strive to embed a sense of self-worth, love of self and understanding of the very important part each and everyone of us plays in the lives of others. We challenge children to want to fulfil their potential and respond to their own next steps. so that they meet their personal best. Sometimes, children can surprise us with a talent or skill which they possess but don't share openly. We want children to have confidence to share with others and to feel a sense of pride in their own achievements.

BRITISH VALUES

Schools have a duty to 'actively promote' the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values were first set out by the government in the 'prevent' strategy in 2011.

By promoting and teaching British values, we aim to ensure that our children and young people understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

Our Collective Worship Programme:

Collective worship sessions are held each day; these are special times to gather together, pray, reflect, listen to stories from the Bible and think how we can live better lives. There is a strong focus on our Christian values, with a different theme either half termly or termly.

Collective worship varies over the week and is Christian in its character. A general overview of the week includes:

MONDAY

The whole school gathers together for our Celebration Praise to give thanks for the previous week and find out all the amazing things which have been going on in the school. This is led by the Headteacher and member of the team and provides a chance for us to recognise and celebrate those who have kept our rules and lived our values during the week.

TUESDAY

The whole school gathers together at our local church, St Mary's. One of our Parish partners, Alan, Chris or Jenny lead our worship. Each month, members of our community group, our 'Open the Book' team, share a Bible story which always involves the children in drama, storytelling and prayer. The worship will often focus on a particular theme or character from the Bible. Lively singing sessions always begin and end our visits and send us back to school with a spring in our step! Parents and carers are welcomed to these worship sessions and refreshments after the worship are always on offer, thanks to our Parish team.

WEDNESDAY

The whole school gathers together for collective worship led by the Headteacher or a member of the teaching team. This worship continues our value theme; each half term or term has a different focus. Most

weeks, there will be a discussion about the theme, a picture book, a story from the Bible, prayers and reflection. Children may come and help with aspects of the worship and will share their thoughts, views and feelings.

THURSDAY

Each class holds a collective worship session in their classroom, led by the class teacher and the children. This is a chance to have a much more intimate prayer and worship session where the theme of the week can be explored in more detail and children can ask and respond to scenarios and bigger questions.

FRIDAY

The whole school gathers together for singing worship. Miss Botterill, our choir teacher, shares a wealth of Christian songs and hymns to sing, praise and worship. Prayers are said to end worship.

Learning to be reflective

To complement Collective Worship and other times during the school day, children are encouraged to be reflective and given opportunities to experience peace. Our peace garden is in need of some care, so we are planning to create a new spiritual garden with the help of members of our School Council, parents and governors.

Our School Prayers

We have a collection of prayers which are said throughout the day; these vary according to the age of the children and the time of day.

Our special Charlton Mackrell school prayer

All children learn to sing our evening prayer

Glory to thee
My God this night
For all the blessings of the Light
Keep me, oh keep me
King of kings
Beneath your own almighty wings
Amen

Grace

Thank you for the food we eat,
Thank you for the world so sweet,
Thank you for the birds that sing,
Thank you God for everything.
Amen

*For what we are about to receive,
May the Lord make us truly thankful.
In Jesus Christ's name.
Amen*

Rainbow Class' evening prayer

Standing still at the end of school
Soon I'll be on my way,
But I'll try and remember
What I've learned today.

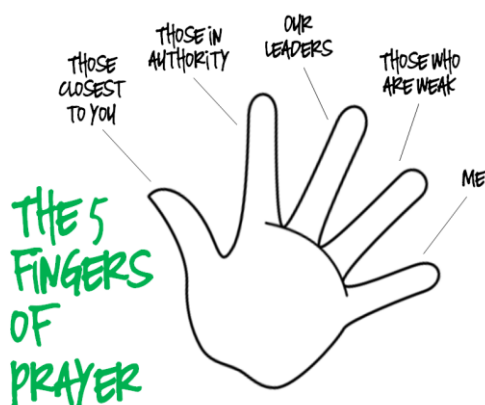
Standing still at the end of school
Now it's time to say:

'thank you everyone for my work
And for my play.'

We all learn The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory.
For ever and ever,
Amen.

Children grow in confidence to pray spontaneously. They learn that prayer can help them praise, ask, thank and say sorry. We can use our hands to help us to create prayers too.



Behaviour for Learning

We have high expectations of behaviour for learning so that everyone is able to learn, play and work in the calmest atmosphere. We expect all children to respect everyone's right to be able to learn in a peaceful, safe and purposeful environment. With this in mind, every member of our school family has a responsibility to contribute to the best learning environment possible.

Our rules, written by children and staff, are clearly known by all. There is a wide range of rewards for those who demonstrate these rules in daily school life as well as a set of clear sanctions when children forget that our rules help us to learn together effectively.

Our Rules

- We are kind and gentle
- We are respectful
- We are honest
- We try our best
- We listen
- We look after property
- Above all, we love our neighbour as Jesus loves us

Our school rules were agreed together with staff and children and are instrumental in making our school a happier and safer place to learn and play.

We use our school rules to talk to children about their behaviour. Children are praised for keeping our school rules and role models are recognised and rewarded. Children who break a school rule are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and consider the impact of their actions on others. Children are learning about the importance of forgiveness and being allowed to have a fresh start.

Roles and Responsibilities

Each of us has an important part to play in making our school and community the best it can be.

Children are encouraged to take on roles and responsibilities around our school from a very early age. As children grow in their understanding of community and citizenship, they may choose to take on key responsibilities.

Some of these roles are nominated by and/or voted for by children and some responsibilities are awarded by staff who recognise those children who are role models in our school community:

- School Councillors
- Play Leaders
- Collective Worship Monitors
- Rainbow 'warriors' in Rainbow Class have numerous responsibilities

We wear badges with pride to show that we have responsibilities to look after our school family.