



# A Guide to Our Christian Ethos

## Achieve, Believe and Create Together

**Jeremiah 29:11. For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **HOPE** and a **FUTURE**.**



## Our Vision

In Autumn 2018, a rigorous consultation with the school community (staff, governors, pupils and parents/carers), culminated in the birth of our school vision, a revival of our Christian values and a new school logo.

Our new vision for all to *Achieve, Believe and Create Together* is rooted in **Jeremiah 29:11**, in understanding the context of Jeremiah's message to the people of God at a time of despair.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **HOPE** and a **FUTURE**."*

Jeremiah's message helps to shape our provision, which is driven by our vision.

*We celebrate in knowing that we are all unique and wonderfully made in God's image, with a purpose. God has a **vision** for us. We take comfort in knowing that God's plan is one of **hope** during good times and adversity; a plan which may not always be immediate or obvious at the time. In appreciating and sharing our talents given by God, opportunities **opens doors** for all to **create** and **achieve**. Together we build a **hopeful future** for our school community.*

As a church school family, we work in a partnership to encourage each other to flourish through

A Culture of academic **Achievement**,  
A **Belief** we can make a difference, and  
A **Creative** approach to all we do.



Everyone on the bus sharing the same vision.

## Our Parish

Our Parish church is St. Mary's, which is part of the Three Wells Mission Community, and includes Abbotskerswell and Coffinswell.

Vicar: Reverend Michael Wilkie



## Our Core Christian Values



Values are the basis of our personal development. They make us who we are. Our values are at the heart of our school and shape every aspect of it. They are earthed in the wisdom and understanding of Christian faith, for it is the Christian tradition that gives these values content and the life of Jesus which gives them moral authority.

We have six core Christian values which underpin our termly themes. Additional values may also be explored alongside, such as justice or wisdom.

### Love and Friendship



**Love** - as God showed his love to us through Jesus Christ, by showing how much we care for others in our school and wider world through supporting them practically and in prayer.

*1 John 4:26 God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him.*

**Friendship** – through developing bonds across the school community as we work and play and care for each other.

*Proverbs. 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend*



**Forgiveness** -because we understand that we all make mistakes and failure doesn't have to have the last word.

*Matthew 18:22 "How often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No!" Jesus replied, "seventy times seven!"*



**Respect** - by valuing every individual for their uniqueness; celebrating similarities and differences and all that they bring to our school community. *1 Peter 2:16 Show **respect** for everyone.*



**Trust** - by valuing trust and knowing that it can take only a moment for it to be broken, we work hard to earn others' trust and to take special care of it.

*Proverbs 28:26 Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.*



**Resilience** -by developing the ability to adapt to change and promoting a 'can do' attitude towards finding solution.

*Psalm 31:24 Be strong, and let your heart take courage.*



**Community** -through working together to ensure all involved in the school can achieve their full potential in a supportive environment.

*Philippians 2:2 Make me truly happy by loving each other and **working together with one heart** and mind and purpose.*

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development** of pupils and adults in the school community forms part of the daily life of our school.

We have a **shared language** to express **spirituality**, which flourishes through the relationships we build with ourselves, others, Creation (beauty), and with God/transcendence (something 'bigger' than ourselves). These relationships can be understood in terms of a web of invisible threads that we are constantly adding to.



**Developing spirituality through our values.** Each value has a set of goals to support the development of our community's spirituality.

**Love & Friendship**

*We develop our spirituality by:*

- Being encouraging
- Valuing each others' contribution
- Being generous and inclusive

**Forgiveness**

*We develop our spirituality by:*

- Not holding a grudge
- Being prepared to say sorry
- Every new day a fresh start

**Trust**

*We develop our spirituality by:*

- Depending on each other in group work
- Being brave and having a go

**Respect**

*We develop our spirituality by:*

- Caring about our work
- Caring about ourselves

**Resilience**

*We develop our spirituality by:*

- Being prepared to get it wrong
- Having another go
- Being prepared to try something new

**Community**

*We develop our spirituality by:*

- Taking it in turns to be a leader and to be led
- Celebrate each others' success
- Having ambitions for each other



## Collective Worship at Our School

Collective Worship is the **heartbeat** of our school. It is an important part in the daily life that provides a space for our school community to engage in conversation with God and personal reflections, as individuals and **together**.

Collective Worship is planned around the church seasons, our Christian values and celebrations, as well as other world events. Our Christian values are celebrated half-termly within a theme.



Our daily worship takes place towards the end of the day and provides opportunities for adults (teachers and clergy) and pupils to participate in some way.

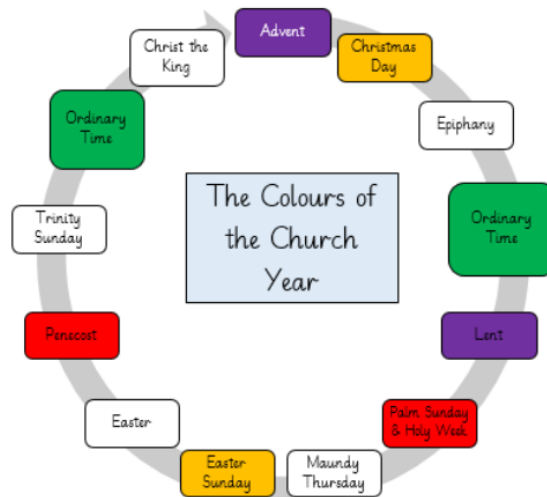
Our **Worship Welcome team** is a group of children from Year 3- Year 6 that change on a weekly basis throughout the year. This provides the opportunity for all children to participate in a small way.

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Values in Action</b><br>worship led by Mrs Miller.<br>Whole-school<br><br><b>Celebration Assembly</b> is shared on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of each month to share extra- curricular achievements. | <b>Bible Stories</b><br>worship led by Mrs Strachan.<br>We share stories from the Bible and other cultures that are linked to our values.<br>Our Value certificates are also handed out today.<br><br><b>Open the Book</b><br>leaders from our parish visit classes on a termly rotation. | <b>Reverend Wilkie</b> leads worship for one key stage in the hall, while the rest of the school share worship in classrooms. This is a 2-week rotation.<br><br>Classroom worship may be led by pupils or teachers. | <b>Songs of Praise</b> are led by teachers.<br>Groupings vary during the year. | <b>Celebration Worship</b><br>Led by Mrs Miller |

# Collective Worship

## Sacred Spaces

Sacred spaces in class provides a platform for a display of our values and the current theme, and should encourage personal reflection, for example, through prayers and art. Our values are changed every half-term and the cloth colour reflects the liturgical (church) year and season.



## Children Involvement

It is important that all children who would like to be involved are provided with opportunities to be involved! Children enjoy taking part and there are many areas, such as opening worship (as per slide below), role-play, reading prayers – older children are capable of planning and leading their own worship.

|  |                              |    |                                     |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | <p><i>Leader: We take out the Bible and open it as we think about...</i></p> <p><i>All: God the Father.</i></p> | <p><i>Leader: We take out the Cross and place it in the centre, as we think about...</i></p> <p><i>All: God's son, Jesus.</i></p> | <p><i>Leader: We take out the Candle and light it, as we think about...</i></p> <p><i>All: God the Holy Spirit.</i></p> |

## Prayers and Reflection

**Prayer is always invitational and children will never be forced to close their eyes and pray.** All at worship are invited to share their prayers, as well as to join in with others, and to say 'amen' at the end should they wish to make the prayer their own. They are reminded to be respectful by bowing their heads and to not distract others around them. Children and staff may wish to say spontaneous prayers, which is always welcomed.

### Our Prayers

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours.  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.

#### **Call and respond Prayer (1)**

Leader: Come to us this day, O God  
All: Come to us with light.

Leader: Come to us this day, O God,  
All: Speak to us your truth.

Leader: Be with us this day, O God,  
All: Be with us in love  
Amen

#### **Our Bidding Prayer**

**May the grace  
of the Lord  
Jesus Christ,  
the love of  
God, and the  
fellowship  
of the Holy  
Spirit, be with  
you all.**  
2 Corinthians 13:13



### Our School Prayer

Dear Father God,  
  
We pray to You above,  
To help us live each day with  
**Friendship** and **Love**.  
To **Respect** ourselves and others  
As we build **Trust** with our sisters and brothers.  
Help us to **Forgive**, to start with a brand new day,  
To be **Resilient** in our work and in our play.  
Help us to celebrate our **Community**:  
Our school, church and family diversity.  
Give us **HOPE** and a **FUTURE**  
on our journey beyond the gate,  
As we **Together: Achieve, Believe**  
**and Create.**  
  
Amen

#### **Call and respond Prayer (2)**

Leader: On our blessings and on our homes  
All: The blessing of God.

Leader: In our coming and our going  
All: The peace of God.

Leader: For ourselves  
All: The love of God,  
Amen