

Core Christian Values

It is essential for a church school to be able to define and describe the Christian distinctiveness in the values that underpin its life and work. Each member of the school community should understand, accept and try to demonstrate these Christian values.

Core Values

At Christ Church there are three 'Core' values that underpin our life and work, they are central to all we do within school. These are also the key values illustrated in the life and death of Jesus. They are:

- Love
- Forgiveness
- Reconciliation

Core Values:

The core Christian values of love, reconciliation and forgiveness originate on the simple fact that "God so loved the world that he gave his Son." (John 3.16) God took the initiative in sending Jesus into the world so that mankind may have life in all its fullness. Receiving such love 'by faith' means that we are reconciled (put into a right relationship) with God and our fellows. This involves embracing God's forgiveness and is demonstrated in our forgiveness of others. As Saint Paul affirms "Being reconciled to God through our Lord Jesus Christ we have peace with God" and "to us has been given the ministry of reconciliation". (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).



'God so loved the world...He sent His son, Jesus,
to show us how to live and put things right'

Love



*“Teacher,” he asked, “which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”
Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘love your neighbour as you love yourself.’
(Matthew 22: 34-39)*

And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples. (John 13: 34-35).

What is the Christian meaning of this value?

- Unconditional love, without expecting any return – as God loves us as seen in the death of Jesus, (the love of God in action, which demands our reverence, is the ‘grace’ of God’)
- The love of God enabling us to love others as we love ourselves.

How will this value of Christian love be evidenced?

- Everyone will be encouraged to ‘think positively with loving thoughts’ and ‘act lovingly’.
- We will all try to love those we do not like and who may not respond to us positively.
- We will demonstrate love in our treatment of others, without expecting others to love us in return.

What will this look like in school?

- All members of the school community will try to ‘put others first’.
- We will allow the love God gives us to be shown in our work and life (e.g. in our charity work).

Challenges that face us...

- Unconditional love in our dealings with others and accepting others who may not be loving in return.
- Love without liking, especially to those who are unkind to us and may not respond positively.
- Understanding that ‘God’s grace’ is the love of God in action – that God’s gift of love demands our reverence and that we must try to follow the example of Jesus.

Forgiveness



Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?"

"No, not seven times," answered Jesus, "but seventy times seven". (Matthew 18:21-22)

But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. (1 John 1:9)

What is the accepted meaning of this value?

- Saying "I'm sorry"
- Accepting the expressed sorrow
- Letting it go – not bearing grudges

What is the Christian meaning of this value?

- Love, without 'sorry' being said or offered or even meant
- Excusing with no conditions
- A new start in love.

How will this Christian value of forgiveness be evidenced in the life of each person?

- We will follow the example of Jesus and learn to forgive others in the same way. This will allow children in the school to move on when things go wrong from time to time.

What will this look like in school?

- When children fall out with each other there is an expectation that when someone is truly sorry they will be forgiven, and will move on without grudges being held.

Reconciliation



*Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.
All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his
friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. Our message is that
God was making the whole human race his friends through Christ.
(2 Corinthians 5: 17-19)*

What is the accepted meaning of this value?

- Sitting down to listen
- Accepting differences
- Compromise
- Making up

What is the Christian meaning of this value?

- New beginnings within healed relationships even when 'no sorrow' is expressed.
- Being willing to listen, being open and honest (face to face).
- Accepting the role of negotiator, peacemaker, reconciler.

How will this value of Christian reconciliation be evidenced in the life of each person?

- Children in the school will be able to welcome back into their friendship groups children that they have fallen out with. They will have a new beginning (which is much harder than just saying sorry!).
- Children are willing to listen to each other.
- Children will put 'sorry' into action and will help enable others to put 'sorry' into action.

What will this look like in school?

- Children will be able to move on from difficult times and will still feel a valued member of their peer group / class / school.
- Children will be accepting of the need and importance of the role of 'negotiator', 'peacemaker', 'reconciler', for themselves and others.