



St James' Church of England VA Primary School

'It takes a village to raise a child'

**Rooted in Christian principles, we are a family who work
together to:**

Build an inclusive, loving
and nurturing school,
which welcomes and values
all

Enjoy caring and authentic
relationships, and live well
together

Grow in wisdom through a
broad, innovative and inter-
esting curriculum, which de-
velops a love of learning

Aspire to be the best we
can be in all that we do

It takes a village to raise a child

As a Church of England school, our vision is based on the following underlying principles and values:

- Promotion of academic excellence within an environment where every child is loved, valued and supported as an individual
- Working in partnership with and serving our local and wider communities
- Creating a school family which is founded upon Christian values: love, joy, patience & endurance, peace, reverence, wisdom, thankfulness, humility, service, kindness & compassion, friendship, justice, hope, creation, self-control, trust, respect, honesty, forgiveness and koinonia.

Aims:

The school aims to develop the full potential of every child – spiritually, intellectually, physically, creatively and socially.

In particular, we aim to:

1. To provide a safe, welcoming, friendly and caring school where individuals are valued for their own unique contribution and personality.
2. To offer a curriculum that is relevant, broad and well balanced in line with current statutory requirements.
3. To provide a stimulating, creative environment, in which children are encouraged to learn, develop skills and achieve their potential.
4. To encourage an effective partnership between home and school where needs are assessed and ways found to meet these successfully within the school framework.
5. To promote skills of self-confidence, self-discipline, self-motivation and self-awareness.
6. To foster social skills, such as positive attitudes and considerate behaviour towards others.
7. To develop mutual respect for adults and children alike, where all feel able to speak openly and honestly about feelings and concerns.
8. To develop aesthetic awareness, a delight and appreciation of the natural world and a concern for its safe keeping and conservation.
9. To value and continue to strengthen links with local church so that all children may experience Christian worship and belief through services, assemblies and also through people prepared to share their faith with the children.
10. To foster links with the local community, so that the school is seen as an integral part of village life.

To meet these aims, we will:

- Develop a curriculum which stimulates enquiry, promotes curiosity and enables excellent achievement for all
- Ensure all our teaching is focussed on children's learning at all times
- Provide appropriate levels of support for vulnerable learners, including those with EAL, SEN
- Work collaboratively to improve both our practice and also our understanding/use of assessment to inform planning
- Ensure that all children are provided with enriching and challenging opportunities and learning experiences, including Higher Achievers
- Use ICT effectively to underpin all learning
- Look after every child in the best way we can, learning from and building upon our mistakes, and listening to and acting upon the things children tell us

What this means for our children

Every child in our school is special, with unique gifts and talents.

The Rainbow is a powerful symbol which represents our core values and beliefs. The Rainbow was sent to Noah as a sign of God's promise to his people. For us, the Rainbow symbolises our promise to love all of our children, a love driven by high expectations for personal and academic excellence, which ensure all staff give the best we can to help all children as they grow and develop in a nurturing, caring and safe environment, secure in the knowledge that every individual child is cherished as a gift from God.

We want all our children to feel loved, cared for, respected, valued and supported as an individual.

We share a profound interest in and commitment to shaping the whole child in coping with the challenges in school and beyond.

We want our children to feel a strong sense of belonging within this community.

Underpinning this are our strong set of core values from which we will not move.

Promoting British Values

In 2011, the government defined British Values as **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs**. We promote these values through our own school values, curriculum and enrichment activities.

Value	How We Promote It
<p>Democracy</p> <p>Links to school values: Respect Wisdom Service Justice Koinonia</p> <p>UN CRC Article 12: Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Pupil Governors are elected every year, reflecting the democratic processes enjoyed at local and national level • We use national and local elections as opportunities to teach more about the democratic process. • We encourage volunteerism in and out of school. This includes things like dinner hall monitors, librarians and also raising money for local and national charities. • Democracy is also promoted through additional PSHE lessons and assemblies • Children learn to respect their rights and the rights of others. • We also have an Eco-Echoes group, nominated by classmates, who lead our school in developing environmentally friendly policies and activities
<p>The rule of law</p> <p>Links to school values: Self-control Trust Honesty Forgiveness Koinonia</p> <p>UN CRC Article 19: Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have high expectations about pupil conduct and this is reflected in our Behaviour Policy. There are no rewards for doing what is expected, but good behaviour and consistent demonstration of our values is recognised through such things as 'Star of the Week' certificates, postcards home and the Rainbow Moment • Through our school values and the Rainbow Promise, children are taught how to earn trust and respect and supported to develop a strong sense of morality; knowing right from wrong and doing the right thing even when it's difficult. • Children learn to respect their rights and the rights of others. • Children experience opportunities to take part in competitions, usually through sport and PE and learn how to win and lose with equal grace. • Visits from agencies/community organisations, such as the police, fire service • Head Teacher for a Day
<p>Individual liberty</p> <p>Links to school values: Friendship Justice Hope Respect Koinonia Joy</p> <p>UN CRC Article 31: All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.</p> <p>UN CRC Article 15: Children have</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children learn to respect their rights and the rights of others. • Through our school values and the Rainbow Promise, children are taught about personal responsibility, choices, ambition and aspiration. They are encouraged to take opportunities to follow their interests in art, music, sport etc. • Children are taught how to keep themselves safe, including on-line. This is done through workshops run by the Local Authority and outside organisations such as the Bedfordshire Police, as well as through the PSHE and Computing curriculum. • Worship, PSHME and RE are used to promote opportunities which consider freedom; eg WW1

<p>the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.</p>	<p>Remembrance Day activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour policy promotes decision making, making choices, consequences. • Promotion of strong learning behaviours and 'growth mindset' approach
<p>Mutual respect</p> <p>Links to school values: Respect Service Koinonia Love Friendship Forgiveness</p> <p>UN CRC Article 2: The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.</p> <p>UN CRC Article 30: Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have high expectations about pupil conduct and this is reflected in our Behaviour Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy. • Children learn to respect their rights and the rights of others. • Through our school values and the Rainbow promise , children are taught to respect each other, to be cooperative and collaborative, be supportive and to be understanding of differences. • Mutual respect is also promoted through additional PSHE lessons and assemblies. • RE lessons and worship are used to share important features of other world faiths and celebrate festivals together. • All staff model mutual respect towards one another, visitors (inc parents) and children. • Fundraising for charities • Opportunities for children to work with other children from different classes, eg reading buddies, sports day
<p>Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs</p> <p>Links to school values: Respect Koinonia Friendship Love</p> <p>UN CRC Article 14: Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have high expectations about pupil conduct and this is reflected in our Behaviour Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy. • Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs is promoted through our RE curriculum. • Children learn about different religions, their beliefs, places of worship and festivals. The children's work is often displayed in the classroom. • This is supplemented by assemblies which although mainly Christian in nature, also mark and celebrate significant religious festivals such as Ramadan, Diwali and the Jewish and Islamic New Years. • Visits are made by local religious leaders and children have the opportunity to visit places of worship. • Children learn to respect their rights and the rights of others. • Debates in class promote opportunity to listen and consider different viewpoints