

Charles Kingsley's CE Primary School

Education Sunday Service February 2014 @ St Mary's Church

Do we know what Education Sunday is?

It is a day of prayer and celebration for everyone in the world involved in the world of education.

For more than 100 years there has been an annual recognition. Each year there is a theme...this year it is "going above and beyond".

When I heard this it made me smile...for me that is what being involved in education is all about. When you have the most precious procession in your hands, for me it is a way of being.

I am in such a privileged position to be leading the future education of our children,

The governors and I shape the strategic direction of their futures; my staff make that vision a reality day to day. We all go above and beyond every day to make a real difference to the children in our care.

You as members of St Mary's all have a huge role to play in the education of our children, not just what goes on behind the doors in Searchers, but because CKS is a church school, we **ALL** have a responsibility to play in growing our children in faith.

What is distinctive about a Church School? Please have a look at the leaflet written by the Diocese about Church Schools.

- Leadership of schools is in the hands of the Head and Governing Body
- It is our task to shape the school and create the Ethos of the school
- It is our responsibility to provide excellent education whilst promoting values that will enable children to become good citizens for our society.
- When ever I meet new parents or have visitors to the school, I talk to them about the Christian Ethos and values of the school. I talk about the elements of Christianity underpinning ALL we do for the whole school community: parents, staff, governors, not just the pupils.

The Ethos of CKS is driven by our Values. I would like to spend time talking through these with you.

VALUES MODEL

Christian Faith

Timothy 3 V15:

“and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus”

- Church Schools are founded on the teachings of Christ.
- It is on this faith in his teaching we much base our distinctiveness.
- I believe that learning and growing in a caring Christian environment will strengthen the values, principles and personal beliefs of our pupils, equipping them for living life in the 21st Century.
- In establishing their own journey towards a personal faith, we will equip our pupils with the courage and strength to defend their beliefs whilst showing tolerance and respect for others.
- I understand and do not underestimate the challenges awaiting our pupils growing up in a secular and unsettled society. But Through a curriculum rich in discussion and a passion for enquiring minds I aim to develop a readiness to challenge all that would constrain the human spirit, for example, poverty of aspiration, lack of self-confidence and belief, moral indifference, aggression, greed, injustice, narrowness of vision, sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination.

Identity

Isaiah 64:8

Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

- At CKS I believe that our children should have the courage to be themselves and the self-respect and understanding to undertake the responsibilities of their own futures.
- No child will leave CKS school without understanding how they are special and with a sense of pride in their gifts.
- I aim to ensure that our pupils have the opportunity to understand what it is that makes them unique in the world, who and why they are.
- I aim to ensure that our pupils develop respect for both themselves and their bodies and will choose to live their lives in a way which preserves and values their distinctive nature.

Community

Matthew 18:20

For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.'

- At CKS we believe that developing the skills, voice and courage to become an active and participating member of society is a vital part of a successful and fulfilling life in wider society.
- We aim to ensure that our pupils understand and respect the rich diversity of a secular, multi-cultural society and understand how our lives have greater purpose through contributing towards the wider good. I believe this is even more crucial for our...if we don't expose children to the diversity within our society when will they first understand? Secondary school? University? The workplace?
- I aim to help them see their part within the community, whether that be the their classroom community, the school community, the church community the community in which they live, the global community.
- This is where members of the congregation who are not parents and have no pupils link to the school come in....
- We have worked so very hard over the last 6 years to build a link between the church and the school...This was left as an action from the school SIAS Report. SIAS wanted to see more of the Church congregation "in school" supporting children in developing their faith journey.
- We have some outstanding Foundation Governors. It is their role within the church school to support the building of these links. With a strong strategic link between the Governing Body and the PCC.
- Katie and Beth created the CKS Prayer Group. They meet once every half term at school and pray for all aspects of our school life...ALL of you are welcome and we would love to see many more members of Marys congregation join us!
- Last term we created our first "prayer space". This was run by members of the prayer group and provided each class with the opportunity to pray and reflect in a quiet moment in school time. A huge success. I know the prayer group is busy planning activities to run with each class during Lent.
- We have our first group of pupils in Confirmation Classes. 5 Year 6 pupils meet every Tuesday with Rev Spiers and myself. I am so very looking forward to supporting these 5 pupils in this journey.
- We continue to try and build these links within our community

Environment

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- Our planet is a rich, extraordinary and finite resource and our pupils today are the custodians of its future. Their lives, actions and behaviours will define its prospects and will shape a legacy for those to follow.

- Through a curriculum which explores the wonders and fascination of the world around us we aim to inspire in our pupils, a sense of awe and wonderment in the gifts of the earth.
- Our children will develop a sense of responsibility and respect for those with whom we share this magnificent planet.
- I would like to take this opportunity to thank those members of the congregation who came to help at our “Green Day”, clearing the gardens ready for them to be transform them into our CKS Vegetable Plot.

Teamship:

Matthew 7:7

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

- To be successful in the world of work our pupils will need to be effective team-players ready to work, live and play alongside others with different talents, opinions and skills.
- Effective teamship will require both the skills of:

Interdependence: working alongside others with emotional intelligence, respectfully negotiating a path towards a common goal.

Independence: Acting reliably as an individual, being able to adopt responsibility for key aspects of a task which will contribute toward the common goal.

Through a curriculum which is explicitly designed to allow pupils to develop both of these key skills we hope that our pupils today will be ready for the challenging and complex world of employment securing their future economic stability.

Communication

Jeremiah 1:9

Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, ‘I have put my words in your mouth

- As successful citizens and employees of tomorrow, the future prospects of our pupils in their lives of work and play will be significantly enhanced by the capacity to communicate effectively.
- We hope to challenge our children to develop and explore their communication skills by engaging in an honest and open exchange with people from diverse backgrounds, beliefs and values.
- They will understand that effective communication can be immeasurably enriched by using a broad selection of communication tools including the diverse opportunities offered by the technological age and the expressive arts.

- Through a curriculum explicitly designed to promote and nourish the partnership of effective communication and powerful listening, we aim to develop the requisite skill with which to engage purposefully and confidently

Creativity

Exodus 35: 31-32

and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills – ³² to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze,

- Our children will learn the value of bringing ideas and previous learning together in unique and innovative ways.
- It is our aim that our children will have both the freedom to explore, the time to understand and the confidence to be different, free from constraint and pressure to conform. They will understand creativity as a unique journey to be respected both in themselves and others.

Enquiring Minds:

Proverbs 16:16

**How much better to get wisdom than gold,
to get insight rather than silver!**

- Our pupils will leave this school with the confidence to challenge and question that which they don't understand.
- They will understand the value of questioning and thinking deeply in their lifelong pursuit of the truth about themselves and the world around them.
- They will learn how to engage in socratic dialogue, learning how to agree and disagree in a way which develops and nourishes rather than undermine.
- They will develop the resilience required to explore concepts in which no right or wrong may exist and appreciate the journey may well be more important than the outcome.
- The design of learning experiences in this school, pervades all curriculum areas,

It is hoped that building our Ethos and Curriculum around these Values we will meet the school aims.

Life Long Learning:

- Children will leave CKS with a love for learning, curiosity about themselves and the world around them
- The disposition to take responsibility for their learning.

Global Futures:

- Children will leave CKS with the skills, dispositions, and attitude to help them flourish in n the world of work.

Values for Life:

- We hope to support children in developing a set of personal beliefs which will guide their thoughts and actins in life.

Personal Excellence:

- A belief that they can achieve and be the best they can!

By delivering our values model in a distinctive and truly effective Christian way, we placing Christian Faith at the heart of all we do...it is our Foundation, ensuring that the whole school community has the opportunity to grow in spiritual health and happiness. This is what is important.

So as a Leader of a Church School, academic level and performance is important but our spiritual journey is equally as important. That's why I come to church...not as Mrs Charlton on school business, but as Zoe...Mike has his Thursday to replenish...I have my Sunday...with Alan and the boys.

It is through self-esteem and happiness that we have the strength and ability to contribute fully to the lives of others. By encouraging our children to develop these strategies, we are able to safeguard and build better world.

but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever.

Amen.

2 Peter 3:18