

Our core Christian Values

At Preston Candover CE Primary School, we have three core Christian Values.

Love, Hope and Justice have been chosen by the children, staff, parents and governors. These values are at the foundation of how we shape the attitudes of our children to learning and to life in the wider community.

We want our school community to flourish and live the best lives they can for themselves and for others. Our collective worship has a strong focus on the person of Jesus Christ and his teachings. We live our core values, cultivating character in our children through teaching virtues e.g. friendship, respect, perseverance, courage, fairness and truthfulness.



Love

Love in our school describes how we are one school family, where each individual is encouraged to love and respect others, themselves, God and our world.

Love is thinking about others before yourself.



Love is the key value that Christianity is built upon. Love lies at the root of all other values. It means how we show respect, goodwill, affection and concern for one another.

This translates in how we promote an ethos of care and concern which embraces all members of the school community at Preston Candover and beyond. It is at the heart of what we do. We recognise that God the Father is Love. When we show His Love, God lives in us.

‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. Matthew 22:38 encompasses the Christian ethos.

‘My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.’ John 15:12.

Hope

Hope describes how we believe the world can be a better place and we can do something positive to make a difference.

Hope is about developing resilience in our character, aspiration for our future and trusting in God.



Encouraging hope inspires self-sacrifice and can turn dreams into reality. Hope generates energy and sustains people through difficult times.

True hope is much more than a general idea that things will get better. Christian hope is grounded in the character of God. Often, in the Psalms, the writer says to God: 'My hope is in you'. It is a hope rooted in the love and faithfulness of God. Hope is not wishful thinking but a firm assurance that God can be relied upon. Hope is not always spontaneous or easy.

As well as trusting God, we have to develop qualities of steadfastness in our own character. Paul says: 'We know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.' (Romans 5:3-4). Hope is coupled with faith and love as one of the three most enduring gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 13:13).

At Preston Candover, the children are supported in a nurturing environment empowering them to give their best and develop resilience. The adults and children in school are encouraged to try their best in all that they do. We encourage children to be hopeful, to think positively and we work hard to bring hope to the children whose lives are difficult at the moment. Provision of an inspiring curriculum, collective worship, church service participation, leadership roles and community involvement offer the children a sense of hope and purpose.

Justice

Justice in our school describes how we take responsibility for ourselves, one another and do what is right.

Justice is about being fair and making wise decisions even when it is difficult.



When thinking about 'justice', some people think first about giving wrongdoers the punishment they deserve. Justice is not about a culture which encourages everyone to insist on their own rights at the expense of others. It is about a community that knows that everyone's well-being is bound up with that of everyone else.

Justice is also about acting out of a concern for what is right and seeing right prevail. It is about social justice, especially for those who suffer most and are least able to protect themselves.

Throughout the Bible, it is emphasised that justice is immensely important to God. It is fundamental to God's character. 'For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.' (Psalm 11:7)

At Preston Candover we teach children the importance of fairness. We also teach them about injustice; racism and discrimination and how they have been overcome. We expect children and adults to be fair to one another.

We inspire children with stories of inspirational people like Martin Luther King and Gandhi who worked for justice. We encourage the children to try and make the world a fairer place for everybody through supporting things like Fairtrade and social justice.

<http://www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk/>

We use resources from the National Society and Roots and Fruits to help develop the impact of our core values.

Mrs Simrit Otway

Headteacher