

Edward Peake C of E (VC) Middle School

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Values Education Policy

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you"
Psalms 32:8

Aim

To promote Christian and British Values that support the development of the whole child and encourage each child to reach their academic and social potential.

Rationale

At Edward Peake Middle School, we reflect consistently on the values that we are trying to promote in school. We regularly consider our core values and how the school sustains an ethos, which supports the pupil as a reflective learner and promotes quality teaching and learning. We are so very aware that society is faced with enormously complicated problems, which makes growing up a very difficult process.

We believe that everyone should be able to choose the values they think are the most important and to this end, the values are reviewed every two years to choose a top twenty which are then used in the following two years. In this way, pupils, parents, governor and staff have 'ownership' of the values they have chosen. These have encompassed the Christian Values (such as love, peace and humility) and the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance (fairness, justice, freedom, respect and tolerance).

As a school community, we believe the ethos of the school should be built on a foundation of Christian Values. These will at times be addressed directly through lessons and the acts of worship programme, whilst at others they will permeate the whole curriculum. They are the basis for the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, emotional and intellectual development of the whole child. We encourage pupils to consider these values, thereby developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to develop as reflective learners and grow to be stable, educated and civil adults.

Elements of Teaching and Learning

The elements of Values Education are as follows:

- Ensuring that Edward Peake maintains its Christian Ethos and Character and that at all times bases its management, teaching, learning and discipline upon Christian principles.
- Ensuring that at Edward Peake our institutional values are consistent with the values that pupils are encouraged to develop.
- Actively promoting a whole school policy that wins the support of both teaching and non-teaching staff and is led and monitored by the Values Education Co-ordinator.
- Introducing monthly values through a programme of school acts of worship. The children are encouraged to be involved in exploring their understanding of values in focussed assemblies.

- Directly teaching about values in worship and class time. Teaching and learning about values takes places in the following steps:
 - 1) By teachers explaining the meaning of a value.
 - 2) Pupils reflecting on the value and relating to their own behaviour.
 - 3) By pupils using the value to guide their own actions.
- Ensuring that staff members model the values through their own behaviour.
- Ensuring that values are taught through every aspect of the curriculum.

Collective Worship

The Collective Worship plan for each term uses the monthly values and is linked to the church year as shared through the St Albans's diocesan website. Hymns and songs are chosen to support the values and worship themes and the choir often sing values songs in the monthly Values Celebration Assembly. In addition, resources for each values are on the staff shared area and these are used in class worship and at other points in the day. Values Ambassadors lead the monthly values celebration assembly and often participate or lead their own class worship or participate in whole school worship. They also help to prepare for daily worship

Ethos

We aim to maintain an ethos in our classrooms and school environment that is positive and all-inclusive. Class management is in line with the values being taught. In a safe environment, children feel secure and able to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences which are always welcomed and valued. Children recognise adults in school as important role models.

Display

The current value is displayed prominently around the school and in classrooms. Each classroom will display a value of the month poster and reflection on what the value means to the children in the class. The value of the month with suitable quotations and active things to try at home is shared with parents via a monthly newsletter which is also displayed on the school website.

Reflection

Quiet reflection is practised regularly in class worship and larger assemblies. This is a period of silence for simple reflection during which the children are asked to consider something specific. This develops positive thinking, the imaginative side of the brain promoting creativity and problem-solving as well as relaxation and focusing of the mind. The reflection always has an aim and teachers and adults are the primary participants and role models for the pupils.

Lessons

Values are taught though collective worship and by adult modelling of behaviour. Pupils often lead class worship and use the values them of the month. The values are also taught indirectly through cross-curricular subjects, for example PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education), PE and RE. Teachers frequently refer to the values throughout the course of the school day pointing out their relevance to children's learning and behaviour.

Rewards

Staff reward children who demonstrate the values in many ways, most commonly by verbal praise. Pupils are awarded house points for displaying the school values. All staff and pupils are encouraged to nominate pupils and staff for the monthly values award. All nominated parties receive a house point. Heads of Year and SLT choose one pupil from each year group and one member of staff to receive a special certificate in collective worship. One pupil receives the Values Champion Trophy. Parents are sometimes asked to nominate their children for any values demonstrated at home.

Role Models

All staff in school model the core values and maintain a positive attitude. We recognise the need to act consistently in line with the values we wish to teach and to demonstrate this in our relationship with other staff, pupils and parents. Values Ambassadors are chosen from each class to liaise between staff and pupils, to prepare and lead worship and to provide a pupil role model in each class. Values Ambassadors may also be required to represent the school by meeting with pupils from other schools. Regular meetings are held and apart from planning worship sessions, the ambassadors evaluate values within the school, discuss feedback from class discussion and are instrumental in planning for future Values Activity Days.

Behaviour

When behaviour issues need to be dealt with, all staff use the language of values and recent experiences such as stories and messages given through collective worship to talk the children through where and why problems have arisen and how to best deal with them in order to move on. The children are encouraged to talk about how they could have used their values to help them through challenging situations with their own emotions and those of others in the hope that they can better cope in the future.

Staff Training and Welfare

All staff receive training up-dates on our progress in Values Education and are consulted on values- based issues within the school and ideas for improvement. All suggestions are treated and valued equally. Staff are encouraged to evaluate values displays and how values are used and developed throughout the school. Feedback is always welcome.

Signed _____
Chair of Governors

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