

Saltford Church of England Primary School



Our Mission

Our Values

Our Vision

The Church of England vision for education is for all children to, 'Have life, life in all its fullness.' [John 10:10]. Saltford School's ethos is built upon our Christian Values, which support our children, staff and school community to experience and enjoy life in all its fullness. Saltford Primary School has long held core inclusive Christian values at the heart of what we do. Starting in early 2018, Governors, staff, the School Council and our children, refined, refreshed and developed a fresh expression of our school mission statement and our core Christian Values.

Our Mission

Our mission explains what we are doing and why what we're doing matters and how we enable all our children to flourish:

At Saltford C of E Primary School we believe anything is possible. We know that children have the right to be provided with a creative, innovative and exciting education that will inspire them to become lifelong learners who are enthusiastic and proud of everything they do. We want every child to excel in all aspects of their learning within an immersive, imaginative, expressive and inclusive environment. We want children to become confident discoverers, explorers and creators who live our Christian values. We keep children as the focus of everything we do.

Our Christian Values

Values help define our character and ethos and by doing so affect our behaviour, beliefs and actions. Saltford C of E Primary School's Christian Values are represented by three words that give purpose, direction and a firm grounding in all we seek to do.

- We **respect** others and the world around us.
- We are **honest** and make the right choices.
- We show we care for each other using **kindness** and good manners.

Our three Christian Values are physically represented in each class and in the Badger Room where a display has been created involving our school council children from Year 1 to Year 6. We also follow additional values that are important to us as a school:

- **Compassion**
- **Courage**
- **Creativity**
- **Empathy**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Friendship**
- **Hope**
- **Justice**
- **Resilience and Perseverance**
- **Responsibility**
- **Thankfulness**
- **Trust**

This is a permanent display in the Badger Room for all our school community to share, enjoy and regularly revisit and refer to through the school day, week, term and year.

Our Vision

A vision is an aspiration for the future. Saltford C of E Primary School's vision is built upon our Christian Values and complements and enhances our Mission. We aim to nurture every child to be the best they can be and by each member of our community striving to do their best. We will all be:

'Caring for our Community'

The foundation for our Vision: *'Caring for our Community'*

Our school's vision has a clear Christian theological underpinning, based on the Biblical narrative underpinning our Christian Values.

What does it mean to be 'Caring for our Community'?

As a school, we all seek to help care for our wider community. As a child, this may be in supporting the community with their IT skills or taking part in different extracurricular areas, for example, sport or the creative arts to help the local community demonstrating Christian Values in every sphere of their lives. As an adult, working or volunteering at the school seeking to do our very best in our professional lives, reflecting how we conduct ourselves within school as well as outside of the working environment. To that end, we each pursue doing 'good' to those around us through upholding our school's Christian Values and holding others in high esteem and serving each other.

How is the vision underpinned by a Christian theological narrative?

Our Christian Values underpin and infuse all we do at Saltford C of E Primary School and this includes our school's vision statement. We believe where these Christian Values are strived for and upheld, we will (both individually and corporately) 'achieve excellence' as we have 'pursued good' i.e. we have pursued and lived our Christian Values.

Furthermore, our vision is underpinned in its entirety by the parable of the Good Samaritan, found in chapter 10 of the gospel of Luke. Modelling ourselves both on the Samaritan and equally through the eyes of the robbed man, we will demonstrate: Christians have *respect* for those around us; *forgiveness* towards those who have wronged us; *perseverance* in the face of adversity; *fairness* in the way we treat others; and *joyfulness* as we care for and are cared by others.

The Samaritan clearly 'achieved excellence through the pursuit of good'. We seek to 'Go and do likewise.' (Luke 10:37). To that end, we annually have had a long held tradition of awarding to one Year Six child the 'Good Samaritan' cup at the Leavers' Service. Both the several nominees and the one child chosen are particularly celebrated for modelling the nature of that very first 'Good Samaritan.'

The foundation for our Values

Our school's Christian Values are each firmly rooted in clear Christian theology and narrative. These values underpin all we seek to do as a school and as such they provide leaders at all levels a clear strategic and operational direction for the school. Whilst there are many potential Biblical underpinnings for each value the following best reflect a holistic Christian narrative; the first underpinning for each value is the 'core' theological narrative.

- We **respect** others and the world around us
 - **Luke 10:25-37: In the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus tells those listening to, 'Go and do likewise [show mercy]'**
 - John 13:1-20: After Jesus had washed his disciples' feet, he challenged them to wash one another's feet – i.e. serve one another.
 - Genesis 2:15: The Lord God put us in the world to take care of it.
 - Matthew 22:15-22: After sharing the parable of the wedding banquet, Jesus commanded his followers to give to all whatever they were owed.

- We are **honest** and make the right choices.
 - **Luke 6:31: If we show others honesty, they are likely to reciprocate. 'Do to others as you would have them to do you.'**
 - Proverb 12:17: Those who speak the truth give honest evidence 'An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies.'
 - 1 John 3:18: We are encouraged not to just speak the truth but to show our truth through our actions 'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'

- We show we care for each other using **kindness** and good manners
 - **Ephesians 4:32: We have been forgiven for our own sins, so we need to forgive others and be kind to one another. 'Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.'**
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4: We must be kind to another and kindness and love are interchangeable. 'Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.'
 - Proverbs 11:7: We only harm ourselves when we hold a grudge and we need to be kind to other people. 'A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.'
 - Luke 6:35: We can be selfless when we are kind and giving to others. 'But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great.'