

Ethos, Vision and Values



Next review: Summer 2024

Bussage Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and this policy is written within the context of the Christian faith, practice and values which underpin our ethos, and which are in keeping with our Trust Deed.

Our school's Christian ethos is that all pupils, whatever their ability or talents, are created in the image of God, and are loved equally by him.

Our school's mission is to provide a learning and development environment in which all pupils and staff can make the most of their God given potential and aspire to "be the best that they can be."

Our school vision is built upon the four cornerstones of WISDOM, HOPE, COMMUNITY and DIGNITY.

For children to be able to learn effectively and to live life to it fullness they must be safe and secure and they must feel safe and secure. In our school, Child Protection and Safeguarding is always our top priority.

Statutory (SIAMs)		Delegation and Review	
Web-Site	Yes	Max. Permitted	Not specified
Owner	FGB	Determined	FGB
Principle Author	Chair/FGB	Review	Not specified
Committee	FGB	Frequency	3 Years

Our ETHOS, MISSION and VISION

Our school is one in which children can learn safely with guidance, support, a strong sense of community and a broad awareness of, and sensitivity to, their environment and society.

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Our school's mission is to provide a learning and development environment in which all pupils and staff can make the most of their God given potential and aspire to "be the best that they can be".

Our School Vision

Our school vision is built upon the four cornerstones of WISDOM, HOPE, COMMUNITY and DIGNITY.

Our vision is grounded in and based on the "Church of England's Vision for Education : Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good (2016)".

WISDOM, knowledge and skills

Our children gain wisdom from:

- A highly engaging thematic curriculum, designed to excite and inspire our children to find out more.
- The use of Bussage Learning Powers to develop our children into independent life- long learners with a Growth Mind-set to encourage them all to be the best that they can be.
- The deployment of Learning Detectives within the school who are children working on behalf of their peers in planning and evaluating activities to enable all children to understand what qualities make us independent life-long learners.
- Our Christian Values that give our children a deep understanding of morality and how Jesus wants us to live our life.

HOPE and aspiration

- Our Christian Ethos points us towards Jesus as the Light and Hope of the World and our Christian Values help to reinforce this sense of hope and aspiration for the future.
- Children at Bussage are taught that hard work is key to success. We celebrate hard work, success and we help every child to achieve their potential.
- Our nurturing ethos encourages our children to cope with set-backs, see mistakes as learning opportunities and helps them to develop their physical, mental and spiritual well-being.
- Bussage Learning Powers and the integration of our Christian values into our curriculum help to open horizons and promote a positive approach and build resilience for our children.

COMMUNITY and living well together

- Jesus teaches us to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves.
- Bussage is an outward looking school.
- We collaborate with other primary schools, secondary schools and Bath Spa University and feel that these links greatly enrich our school.
- We develop international links with sister primary schools in Kenya via the British Council and from time to time participate in other international initiatives (e.g. Erasmus+ Project) thus encouraging our children to broaden their global and cultural our perspectives.

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- We value our strong links with the local church and their support in our acts of worship.
- We welcome visits from key individuals (e.g. emergency services, doctors, councillors, business leaders etc.) serving our locality to reinforce the schools position within the community.
- Internally, our school encourages participation, collaboration and a strong sense of community. For example, we have Values Ambassadors, a School Parliament comprising several “ministries” and Learning Detectives. This helps our children build the skills necessary to work together with a common purpose.
- We see ourselves as serving our local community. We work very closely with local nursery and playgroup providers and our breakfast and after school provision aims to provide “wrap around” care for our young people and to support local families.
- We encourage our children and families to carry our vision and values outward into their local community and onward into their future lives.

DIGNITY and respect

- As Jesus’s disciples, we love one another as he has loved us.
- At Bussage school, we respect others and ourselves.
- We recognise that 21st Century Britain is enormously diverse. Our children are encouraged and taught to celebrate this richness.
- Modern technologies present enormous challenges to young people today and we aim to help children navigate safely in this area in a dignified and respectful way.
- All members of the school understand that everyone within our school community should be respected equally and treated with dignity.

Our Christian Behaviour VALUES

Flowing from our school vision and our four cornerstones, are our twelve Christian behaviour values which help us to think and focus on how we can constantly improve our learning and living out our lives.

Across the whole school, we follow a half termly cyclic programme of considering and promoting each of our twelve Christian behaviour values into our thematic learning programme. This approach means that, whilst all twelve values are continuously in our thoughts and prayers, each value is more closely thought about and worked upon at least once every two years and each child considers each value three times at three different points in their personal development during their time with us.

Our twelve Christian behaviour values are:



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We also make use of the full Roots and Fruits programme (1&2) in our Religious Education and in our Collective Worship planning.

British Values

Bussage Primary School agrees with, supports, adopts and promotes the British government’s published fundamental British Values. They are entirely consistent with our own school Ethos, Mission, Vision and Values. Through our learning, development, behaviours and values we engage with the breadth and diversity of the whole of British society and the wider world beyond. We encourage our staff and pupils to see themselves as citizens of Britain and of the world, as well as being a vital and vibrant part of our own local community here in Bussage and Gloucestershire.

The four fundamental British values are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

We actively promote these values in our school life.

British Value	How We Promote It
<p>Democracy Links to our values: Courage Justice Respect Service Trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having an active school parliament consisting of a Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary, with a full democratic election process where all children have a vote. They oversee the work of the four ministries we have in the school, the Learning Ministry, Charity Ministry, Eco Ministry, Sports Ministry and also our Values Ambassadors. • Values are promoted daily as a part of everyday school life. • Children are divided into houses with elected house captains. These houses are involved in intra-school events. • People who give service (doctors, clergy, emergency services etc.) visit the school to talk about their roles. • Children in the Charity Ministry have the opportunity to plan their own whole school charity events to support charities of their choice. • Our Values Ambassadors lead younger children in acts of collective worship. • Children are encouraged to express their views and back these up throughout the curriculum, e.g. in English discussion and persuasive writing sessions. • Pupil voice: pupils complete questionnaires about their views; they have ownership of some of the topics and content of the curriculum; they have the power to nominate stars of the day; views were gathered about whole school vision and motto.
<p>The rule of law Links to our values: Compassion Forgiveness Justice Respect Service Truthfulness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and teachers discuss and decide class rules at the start of each academic year. • Every class has a behaviour system in place, with a hierarchy of consequences leading to Head Teacher involvement. • Y5 F@B Peer buddy system in place where older children guide younger children in appropriate behaviour. • Older children mix with younger children in dining area to model and guide with behaviour choices and help the younger children with dining skills. • Our Coram Life, SCARF PSHE scheme promotes the rule of law.

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<p>Individual liberty Links to our values: Compassion Courage Friendship Respect Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are involved in dressing up days embracing traditions, values, celebrations etc. • Children are given a choice of topics and resources. In addition they are encouraged to carry out open ended activities and tasks. (EYFS curriculum) • We offer children a choice of extra curriculum activities. • Children are aware that there are consequences for inappropriate behaviour. • PSHE is used to challenge perceived stereotypes. • Regular PSHE and circle times are happening in class. • All stakeholders promote kindness towards each other.
<p>Mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs Links to our values: Forgiveness Friendship Respect Trust Truthfulness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE groups are used for development of self-esteem and self-confidence. • Visits are made to pre-school settings. • Stakeholders promote good relationships with parents/carers and the community. • Work of the Week Assembly on Friday mornings are held so parents can share and celebrate their child's learning. • Classes celebrate festivals (Christian and non-Christian). • Children are involved in experience church and cathedral trips. • Each class have a reward system and children are involved in houses where they are encouraged to work as a team.

Keeping our Ethos, Vision and Values up to date

As well as reviewing our own school vision on a regular (at least three yearly) basis, we will do so if and when any of our source reference documents change significantly:

References:

1. Church of England Vision for Education (Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good) - Autumn 2016 (still current Summer 2021)
2. Gloucestershire Diocese Values for Education – (“Roots and Fruits” in conjunction with Imaginor Ltd) Roots and Fruits 2 was published in 2019 and extends the total number of worship focus topics to 18 over three years from 12 over two years. The new topics, though labelled as values by the Imaginor programme for consistency, they are rather fruits, aspirations and outcomes. Four of them are also already integrated into the Cornerstones of our Ethos and Vision. These four are: Hope, Community, Dignity and Wisdom. The other two are fruits (outcomes) of the Holy Spirit - Joy and Peace. The 12 core values thus remain unchanged.
3. Department of Education Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools – November 2014 (Still current Summer 2021)
4. UK Government Prevent Strategy – June 2011 (Still current Summer 2021)