

Our Christian value for the autumn term is PEACE.



At St Mary Abbot's Church of England Primary School, we have adopted 3 key values, one for each term of the school year. Our key values for this year, are peace, forgiveness and hope. These values provide an important framework for helping to define and validate the work of the school 'beyond the curriculum.' Each value is used as the theme for collective worship, the focus for classroom reflection and the subject matter for the main hall or quiet corner displays.

The Bible has so much to offer in this area of positive personal, relational and community values, and its timeless wisdom can help us as staff here at St Mary Abbot's School, pass on to the next generation the qualities of life that are most valuable and which, as Christians, we believe are not only God-given but also can be God-energised in our lives.

When talking, discussing and reflecting on the Christian value, **Peace**, the following key ideas and themes are explored with the children -

- Inner peace - it is important for children to learn how to calm themselves down in any range of situation, to cope with a range of anxieties and fears (such as the secondary transfer process, taking public or music examinations), to enjoy silence (sitting in church before the Eucharist service begin), becoming more reflective (asking what does that really mean for me?), and cultivating a contented spirit i.e. at one with yourself.
- Peace between each other - At the beginning of each academic year, the assemblies led by the Headteacher focus on friendships and being at peace between each other in school. The following themes are explored - making and keeping friends, sorting out arguments, making compromises, letting go of hostile feelings, building bridges, learning how to listen to each other. Some of this is discussed through role play, scenarios and listening to stories.

- Peace in the community - The theme of peace is developed further to look outwards into the community, respecting differences, listening and talking with those who hold opposite views to you, honoring each other, and finding common ground. Children need time to listen to differing viewpoints and learn respect for each other.
- Peace in the world - Ultimately, children need to discuss and explore the wider global aspects such as ending wars, working for peace and peacekeeping, talking not fighting.
- Peace with God - Last but not least, pupils need to learn and be taught about forgiveness, a new start, being reconciled to God; Christians believe that this is where it all must start for true peace be found both inside ourselves and between each other.

Key Bible verses

It is important that as staff we use key Biblical references to back up our Christian values, as this underpins why this Christian value is so central to us.

1 Peter 3:10-11 (quoting Psalm 34)

'Do you really love life? Do you want to be happy? Then stop saying cruel things and quit telling lies. Give up your evil ways and do right, as you find and follow the road that leads to peace' (CEV)

Matthew 5:9: 'God blesses those who make peace. They will be called his children.'

There are Key concepts to unpack with the pupils -

- Peace has a range of meanings, from silence to the ending of a war.
- Peace is something most people long for - an end to hatred, hurting and even harmful noise.
- But why is peace so hard to find? Are we frightened of silence? Are we incapable of living peacefully with each other, especially with those who are different from us?
- Finding and making peace is hard work and once it is found, it needs to be guarded very carefully.

Children have a greater understanding of the idea of peace when:

- they experience true silence - in church, at home or at school
- they make up with friends after a row - in the playground, in the classroom or at home
- they see people working together and burying their differences- at home with parents or older siblings, at school between staff, between friends,
- they hear about war and peace in their history lessons walk or on TV
- they hear about wars still going on today - in news, in assemblies, class discussions or chats between friends.

Display and reflective corner ideas -

The following will be used in school over the term -

- Symbols of peace from different faiths and none include: a dove, an olive branch, a cross, a flaming torch, the Olympic rings, a CND badge and a rainbow.
- A picture of a peace treaty being signed (from the web), weapons being laid down, enemies shaking hands, too hostile flags flying together, a calm lake scene.
- Pictures of Nobel Peace Prize winners.
- A Christmas manger with the words spoken by the angels of 'peace on earth'.

Key questions to use with children:

- Where do you go to get some peace and quiet? How do you go about making peace with someone?
- What does the word 'peace' make you think of?
- What situations today need to find peace?
- What can you do to make this school a more peaceful place?

Bible Story links:

The Bible can help us to explain and give answers to the children -

Romans 12:17-18 'Try to earn the respect of others and do your best to live at peace with everyone.

- The prophets in the Old Testament foresaw the day when there would be an end to war - see Micah 4:1-5 (beating swords into ploughshares).
- Isaiah advises that a child will come one day who will be called 'The Prince of Peace' - see Isaiah 9:6-7.
- The angels sing of peace on earth when Jesus is born - see Luke 2:8-16.
- Jesus brings peace to the storm on Lake Galilee - see Luke 8:22-25.
- Paul talks of Jesus being the person who can bring peace between opposing groups of people - see Ephesians 2:14 -18.
- Paul prays for peace among the people to whom he writes - see 2 Corinthians 13:11-13.

[Isaiah's vision for peace](#)

Our special Peace prayer for the term - *Peace*

A Prayer for Peace

Dear God,

We thank you for giving us your peace.

Help us to spread peace at home and at school by loving and caring for one another.

Help us to spread peace by listening to one another, even when we don't agree.

Help us to spread peace by sharing our time with those who are lonely and who need a friend.

Help us to spread peace by thinking and praying for children who have no food or who are frightened and live in fear.

Let us pray every day for peace for our families, for our friends and for ourselves.

Amen