

The Three Schools

(Swanbourne CE School, Mursley CE School and Drayton Parslow Village School)

Our Schools' Christian Vision

'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' Matthew 5:16



- The Three Schools provide a quality education within a caring Christian environment. We aim to create a happy, safe environment where children and adults can respect and value each other. We encourage our children to take pride in belonging to our school and all that it offers.
- At The Three Schools, we don't hide our light - as shown in our Motto - **'With HONESTY, RESPECT, FORGIVENESS and LOVE, we persevere, succeed and shine.'**
- "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:15 -17.
- By providing excellent learning opportunities, our aim is for each and every child to reach their full potential both academically and personally.
- All children at The Three Schools are encouraged and guided to become rounded individuals with an understanding of good citizenship, based on principles of truth, justice, courage, respect and tolerance.
- We want to create a sense of self-esteem, self-confidence and self-worth in every pupil, as well as help each pupil to realise their own potential. In order to achieve this, our rich and diverse curriculum enables our pupils to know more and remember more.
- We utilise children's natural curiosity and sense of wonder and seek to help pupils develop lively and enquiring minds with a growth mindset and ability to apply themselves to tasks and the skill to interpret the world around them, whilst helping them acquire the knowledge and skills demanded by society in the adult world.
- We recognise the importance of home, school, church and the local community working in partnership for the best outcome for our children. All staff endeavour to foster relationships with pupils which reinforce expected attitudes and behaviour in a friendly and caring way, enhancing the quality of school life for all.
- Promoting an understanding and tolerance of others and an awareness of the wider world ensures that children leave The Three Schools with a compassionate and open mindset. These aims are supported by a 'broad and balanced' curriculum which is carefully structured to build on prior successes.
- The Church of England's Vision for Education states a core desire that children will experience life in all its fullness (John 10:10). At The Three Schools, we believe that exploring Spirituality by educating the whole child and providing full life experiences meets this desire.
- We define Spirituality as an ongoing, reflective journey. At The Three Schools, we explore with the children what their light is and how they can let it shine. We want our children to know that we are all different; we are all unique but God has given us all strengths that we can develop and achieve our potential. Spirituality enables our children to be aim high, achieve success and SHINE, as reflected in our motto.

Our Christian Values - Honesty, Respect, Love and Forgiveness

Honesty (Hebrews 6:18) "So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie."

Respect (Matthew 7:12) "So in everything, do to others, what you would have them do to you."

Forgiveness (Colossians 3:13) "Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others."

Love (John 4:8, 16). "Love is both what God is and what he has done; God always acts in love."

"With HONESTY, RESPECT, FORGIVENESS and LOVE we persevere, succeed and shine."

How do we bring our vision to life? How do we 'live' our values?

- Each classroom is an inclusive learning environment where all children can thrive. Christian values are displayed and referred to.
- We use teaching and learning strategies that engage and challenge all children. We differentiate tasks, provide support and resources to ensure that all children are able to persevere, succeed and shine.
- We support children to know more and remember more using knowledge organisers, recall questions, end of unit assessments and by following a long-term overview that revisits key concepts and skills.
- We make links in our RE lessons to our school values and ALL members of staff model our Christian values e.g. interactions with each other/children/visitors/parents.
- PSHE lessons provide children opportunities to explore our value in relation to building and maintaining relationships/friendships/recognising feelings.
- Christian values 'Shine Awards' given in assembly, recognise the importance of our values and they strive to SHINE within school and the wider community.
- Collective Worship-delivered by SLT/teaching staff, provide opportunities to explore key themes and make links to and reflect on our Christian values.
- Milton Keynes Bridge Builder Team deliver a Collective Worship session every half term. These explore relevant issues that promote character development and social responsibility encouraging our pupils to reflect on their own beliefs and Christian values.
- Christian Values Wristbands - Children and staff have the opportunity to receive a 'Values' Wristband if they are shown to demonstrate one of our schools' values. Staff and pupils are able to nominate recipients of a Wristband, this is such an effective way of ensuring our Values are meaningful to all of the school community. We all recognise the importance of our values and we strive to SHINE within school and our wider community at all times.
- The words of the Sermon on the Mount remind us that a light should not be put under a bowl - it should give light to everyone, including oneself. In possession of God's light and His love, it is possible for us all to show something of his light in our families, in our school, in our community and throughout the world - Our Junior Leadership Team (JLT) and Courageous Advocacy Team (CAT) take leading roles in significant decisions for the life of the school community, local community and international community - They work together to consider projects that can be supported to embed and develop our Christian values - Supporting local, national and international charities, but 'going beyond the bake-sale' such initiatives include the following;

- Gambia Schools project (supporting the Breakfast Club initiative in 2022-2023) - Working with the 'Gambia Schools Project', a charity that raise money to build schools for local communities in Gambia. Helps children to understand that Christianity is a global faith where 'showing our good deeds' can really make a difference.
 - MK Foodbank - Donations from Harvest Festival Service taken to MK Foodbank and CAT visited and supported the creation of food parcels for the Christmas Holidays.
 - Beds, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (Young Leaders Project 2023) - Funds raised through animal themed activities, while also raising awareness of the need to support Wildlife in the local area and beyond.
 - Planting daffodil bulbs and litter picking in the local community (Young Leaders Annual Community Change projects since 2020)
 - Supporting Local Ukraine Refugee Families (Sunflower competition 2022)
 - 'Dress to Express' day to raise funds for Place 2 Be - The Mental Well-being Charity.
 - Courageous Advocacy Team (CAT) 'BE THE CHANGE' fundraiser for DEC to help those affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Turkey (2023)
- Easter Service/Harvest Service/Christmas Service-links with the local church and develops awareness of our school values and how we can impact the wider community through our courageous advocacy.
 - Since 2020 - September Shine Day- Relaunches our Christian Values and Vision each year making links to stories from the Bible that illustrate each Love, Honesty, Respect and Forgiveness.
 - Courageous Advocacy Team-pupils meet regularly, feedback on Collective Worship, take leading roles in Worship and consider projects for embedding our Christian values.

How do we Shine? - Being the best we can be, for Ourselves and Others

- We believe that every child and adult can shine and that this can be for the benefit of all. We recognise that we are all special in God's eyes and have unique talents, which we nurture so that each of us has the opportunity to become the very best person that God intended us to be.
- We want to see everyone being inspired and growing in wisdom, knowledge and dignity. We want to see children flourishing and excelling in everything that they do through providing rich experiences which give everyone the opportunity to achieve more than they ever thought possible.
- We do not want the brilliant things that we do and learn to be hidden. We want to encourage our children to aspire to great things and for the light of their lives to shine and make a difference in their classrooms, throughout the school and when they return home and into their community.
- As we all demonstrate our Christian values of Love, Respect, Forgiveness and in a supportive atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, our hope is that light will shine from The Three Schools in many ways, every day - for the benefit of all and for the glory of God.

Valuing Ourselves

- We believe that developing a sense of self-worth is of paramount importance. When he was on earth, Jesus once said: 'I am the light of the world' (John 8:12). However, as he spoke to those around him during the Sermon on the Mount, he also used these words: 'You are the light of the world'.
- In addition to letting their light shine on others, we want our children to recognise the value of their own light: to be proud of their personal achievements; to value and respect themselves; and to know how loved they are both by God and by others.

- We aim to develop a *Growth Mindset* so that all members of our school community are able to face the future with hope and aspiration and embrace all that life has to offer.
- Jesus explains: "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

- As a Christian school family, we seek to follow the example of Jesus in all that we do. We believe that the Sermon on the Mount is a vital chapter in scripture, teaching us to let the light of Jesus shine through us.
- We take great encouragement from the words "you are the light of the world"; this reveals to us that Jesus, who himself tells us "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), is within all of us.
- We are all God's children and are called to "give glory" to our Father in heaven through our "good works". This reminds us of the importance of our actions. Our actions allow us to let our light shine.
- Our actions allow us to share the light of Jesus with those around us.
- We want our schools and our churches to be beacons that shine far and wide, lighting up our region with the light of Jesus through our work, rest and play.
- By learning about Christian values, by listening to the teachings of Jesus, and by following the example of Jesus, we say to every member of our community: **let your light shine**.
- The words of the Sermon on the Mount remind us that a light should not be put under a bowl - it should give light to everyone, including oneself.
- In possession of God's light and His love, it is possible for us all to show something of his light in our families, in our school, in our community and throughout the world.