



## Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School & Nursery

*A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish*



*'Through God's love, we are the rich soil  
where roots grow and seeds flourish.'*

Luke 8:4-15



## OUR CHRISTIAN VALUES

### Theological Background

Our vision to be a caring community where all can flourish is deeply rooted in the Christian understanding of human dignity and love. Theologically, it reflects the belief that every person is created in the image of God (*imago Dei*), and therefore possesses inherent worth and potential.

Our vision is also shaped by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ — emphasising love, service, forgiveness, and justice. We define flourishing in terms of Jesus promise of 'life in all its fullness'. (John 10:10) For children to truly flourish and have life in all its fullness, we see education not only as academic formation but also as social, emotional, spiritual and moral growth. Our children are inspired to reach their full potential within a loving community in which every opportunity is provided for them to flourish in the security of God's love.

Our vision also echoes the biblical idea of community as the Body of Christ, where each individual is valued, supported, and enabled to grow, in a nurturing environment of care, encouragement, and trust.

Our vision is rooted in the parable of the sower in Luke 8: 4-15. As a school community we aim to be the rich soil in which our children can develop their roots and grow and flourish to be the best they can be. We seek to create the conditions in which every member can develop their gifts, experience belonging, and flourish both academically and spiritually.

### Our Christian Values

At Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School, Christian values are integral to our daily lives. A Value is a principle that guides our thinking and behaviour. Our school's distinctive Values were chosen by pupils, staff and governors. Our chosen values are firmly rooted in the Christian narrative;

*'And now these three remain.*

*Faith, Hope and Love.*

*But the greatest of these is Love'.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

At Lanchester E.P. School, '**Love**' is our core values and it is from **Love** that all our 4 key values flow:

**Hope**

**Joy**

**Kindness**

**Trust**

## **Purpose**

This document is designed to support governors, staff, parents and pupils in embracing and embedding our Christian values throughout our school community. For each value, there is a description of what the value means: the theological background and appropriate biblical links. It also makes them personal to our school and community by giving examples of how these values are demonstrated each and every day in Lanchester E.P. School.

## **Expectations**

Our values underpin all that we do. This is demonstrated through:

- Consistent classroom displays of Values
- Value-focussed Collective Worship
- Weekly Growth Worship
- Our Behaviour Policy is relational, firmly rooted in the Christian Values

# LOVE



Love is a distinctly Christian value because Christians recognise that God is love, and love comes from God (1John 4:7). Whilst love is important in almost every culture and religion, the Bible tells us that God loved us first. We are therefore able to love in the true sense of the word because God loves us.

As we receive and experience God's love, which is unconditional and for everyone, we can then love others. Christians believe that it is by understanding God's love for us that we truly love others.

It is with this in mind that Lanchester E.P. has chosen love as one of our values. We see love shown in the Christian narrative in many ways. Christians believe that Jesus' death and resurrection were all because God loved us and wanted us to be made right with Him again. This was the ultimate expression of love.

The teaching of Jesus has at the heart of it the love of God. "Let all that you do be done in love." The command to love is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. When the apostle Paul wrote to the church of Corinth, he instructed them to do everything in love. In St. Paul's first letter to the people of Corinth, he realised that these people were finding it hard to love as Jesus loved, so he gave them a list of ideas to hold on to:

By loving others, we are encouraging one another in the same way that Paul encourages the Christian Corinthians to be imitators of Christ and to be motivated solely by love.

## How do we demonstrate the value of love at Lanchester E.P. School?

- We are inclusive and welcoming to everyone.
- We provide a safe and nurturing environment.
- We nurture ALL our children.
- We support ALL our learners.
- Our worship themes centre on God's love.
- We show kindness and consideration to others.
- We encourage children to identify 'love' in action and celebrate those who demonstrate love through their actions.
- We care about our neighbours and our world.
- We recognise and celebrate individuality and diversity.
- We model actions that create a loving community.
- We encourage healthy relationships.
- We promote positive interactions.
- We listen to each and show respect.
- Our relationships are loving and supportive.
- We model respect and care for one another.
- We value and appreciate one another.
- We are patient with one another.
- We show empathy and compassion.

- We do the right thing, even when it is difficult.
- We seek to understand children's behaviours and needs.

### **Scripture**

As a school within a rural village, the value of love is theologically centred on the Bible narrative '**The Good Shepherd and his Sheep' John 10:1-18**

This reminds us that Jesus's unwavering love for each individual mirrors the attentiveness and care a shepherd shows his flock. In embracing this example, Lanchester E.P. School tries to cultivate a loving, nurturing and inclusive environment in which every member of the community is recognised, valued, and cherished.

The story of the Good Shepherd and his sheep represents our school. In the story, Jesus assures his followers that they are his sheep, he will lay down his life for them, he will guide, protect and keep his sheep safe. He shows how he knows each and every one of his precious flock.

One day, Jesus tried to explain who he really was.... He said to them, "I'm like a Good Shepherd who cares for every one of his sheep and knows each one by their name. My sheep have a place to shelter together, a sheepfold. It has a gate to keep them inside. Even when they are asleep, I stay close to them. They know I am there.

Jesus showed how he kept his flock safe from harm. In Lanchester E.P. School, we keep safe and nurture all members of our school family to be the best version of themselves so that they thrive and flourish as a result of good mental health and wellbeing in a fellowship of love with God. Jesus dedicated himself to his flock, without exception. Everyone is welcome in our Lanchester E.P. family. We are fully inclusive; we welcome all and strive continuously to meet individual needs, supported by excellent role models, who have high aspirations for all, driven by Gospel values. At Lanchester E.P School, we believe that everyone in our school community deserves the very best, all are valued and all are loved.

# HOPE



At Lanchester E.P. School, we have high hopes and aspirations for our future, our school and our community. Hope generates energy and sustains people through difficult times. We also understand that faith gives us hope for both now and for the future and that this hope brings confidence. Hope for us means that there is always a future whatever situation we are in, because God promised to never leave us, to always love us, and to help us in times of need.

The Christian understanding of hope is much deeper than our everyday use of the word can be. Christian hope is rooted in God's love for us. Christians believe that: God has our best interests at heart; God will never leave us; God will provide for us when we are in need; God knows us and God promises us of a better life to come. When we are in our darkest time, God is there and will help us. Hope is seen as an essential component of spiritual growth and wellbeing.

**Jeremiah 29:11 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'**

This verse is often quoted as a reminder that God has a specific plan and purpose for each of our lives and that His plans are always good and full of hope. It encourages us to trust in God and His love, even when we may not understand what is happening in our lives.

We see hope shown in the Christian narrative in many ways. The resurrection gives us hope for eternal life. The gospel stories tell of hope, for example the woman who touched Jesus' robe ('If I just touch his clothes I will be healed'). The rainbow after the flood is a sign that God will never break his covenant of love with us.

## How do we demonstrate our value of Hope at Lanchester E.P. School?

At Lanchester E.P. School we develop our value of hope through never giving up on our pupils; wanting the best for them academically and in their character; helping them to see light despite darkness; investing in our pastoral work and learning about prayer.

- We know we need to work hard.
- We provide inspiration for aspiration.
- We are resilient.
- We persevere.
- We embrace mistakes, knowing that we can learn from them.
- We are compassionate and support each other.
- We provide a wider curriculum to inspire and motivate children to shine.
- We prepare children for the next stage in their life.

## Scripture

### **The parable of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11 – 32).**

Jesus shares the parable with his disciples, the Pharisees and others. In the story, a father has two sons. The younger son asks for his portion of inheritance from his father, who grants his son's request. This son, however, is prodigal, thus squandering his and eventually becoming destitute. As a consequence, he must now return home empty-handed and intends to beg his father to accept him back as a servant. To the son's surprise, he is not scorned by his father but is welcomed back with celebration and a welcoming party. Envious, the older son refuses to participate in the festivities. The father tells the older son: 'You are ever with me and all that I have is yours, but thy younger brother was lost and now he is found.'

In the parable, the father (who represents God) never gives up on his wayward son. He is always watching and waiting for him to return. Jesus is teaching that in God's eyes everyone counts as worthy of forgiveness. No matter how challenging life becomes, there is always hope and the possibility of a fresh start. Through the story of the Prodigal Son, Jesus gave us hope that, even when we make mistakes, if God is in our hearts, we will never be alone, and all is not lost.

At Lanchester E.P. School, we show hope by trying to be the best we can be in everything we do. From tiny beginnings, we hope that we can all make changes for the better, improving ourselves, our community and the world in which we live.

## KINDNESS



The value of Kindness is shown many times throughout the Bible. One of the most prominent verses is: **'Treat others as you want them to treat you.'** Matthew 7.12

Jesus told stories of healing that were rooted in his kindness and compassion for others. In The Good Samaritan, his kindness is shown towards someone unexpected. Through this, Jesus taught us that we are called to show kindness towards those outside our own circle, as well as to our friends and family.

At Lanchester E.P. School we explore what it means to live out Jesus' teaching, and try to **'Do to others as you would have them do to you.'** (Matthew 7.12). We try to share one another's burdens and help each other to learn that failures are not signs of weakness but opportunities to learn. We look for opportunities to support charities and good causes to improve the quality of life for others. We show kindness and compassion towards others joining our school community, offering a warm welcome to all.

### How do we demonstrate our value of Kindness at Lanchester E.P. School?

Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate. At Lanchester E.P. School we show this by:

- We hold the door open for others.
- We help a friend who's stuck on their classwork.
- We clear up a mess we didn't make.
- We do acts of kindness for anyone - our friends, family, strangers.
- We do random acts of kindness challenge!
- We support charities.
- We are kind to everyone even if they are not our friend or if we don't get along very well.
- We put ourselves in others' shoes and think about how they might be feeling.
- We talk to people about how they are feeling if they want to.
- We pray for those who need it.
- We follow the example of Jesus.
- We treat others how we would want to be treated ourselves.

## **Scripture**

Jesus taught us to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. Jesus was asked who counts as a neighbour and he responds with, '**The parable of The Good Samaritan**'. **Luke 10: 25-37**

In the story, a Jewish man was robbed and left to die by his assailants. Two highly respected men passed by him but decided to walk away. Then a Samaritan came along. Unlike the other two who walked by, the Samaritan stopped and tended to the man's wounds and brought him to a safe place. The Samaritan knew that the wounded man may never help him in return. Yet, he helped because he knew it was the right thing to do. The term 'Good Samaritan' today refers to a person who helps others, without wanting anything in return.

The parable shows us that at Lanchester E.P. School, we can show kindness like the kind stranger by caring for someone in need. It shows us that discrimination or being a bystander is never okay. The kind stranger and the injured man were supposed to be enemies. Jesus challenges us to show kindness to each other, even when it is hard to do.

***'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another,***

***as God in Christ has forgiven you.'***

**Ephesians 4:32**

Kindness is integral to living a Christ-like life and the simple act of being kind can have a profound and uplifting effect on others. It is not just about one-off acts of kindness, but about showing deep compassion and empathy in actions, words, and overall character. Loving kindness is a fundamental aspect of Christian living and is important in relationships, community, and social justice.

## JOY



Joy is a quality of being rather than just an emotion and so although it is related to being happy it is more fundamental and can be sustained when happiness is (hopefully temporarily) diminished. Joy also comes from participating in God's ministry in the world and from seeing lives being positively changed and relationships enhanced...

Joy is a very important but often neglected social value... God does not desire us to have a joyless world or dis-spirited people. Joy is characteristic of life in all its fullness. God is the fundamental reason for being joyful – joy comes from knowing God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Spirit.

Joy also comes from participating in God's ministry in the world and seeing lives being positively changed and relationships enhanced. Joyfulness should mark the life of the Christian community and all relationships between Christians as they live and work together for the Lord.

Joyfulness should mark the life of the Christian community and all relationships between Christians as they live and work together. It is important too that joy be a feature of the life of the wider community.

What are we doing in school to learn about Joy? Joy is the expression of inner happiness and contentment. At school we believe that children and adults achieve most through praise and encouragement. We choose to be positive and encourage children to be content so that they will be a source of joy to others. At school we take every opportunity to celebrate success in our merit awards worship and often take the time to share our achievements. These are very joyful occasions.

### **The joy of the Lord is your strength. ' Nehemiah 8:10**

In the Christian faith, joy is more than just a temporary feeling of happiness; it is a lasting gift from God that remains even when circumstances are difficult.

### **How do we demonstrate our value of Joy at Lanchester E.P. School?**

How we live this out in school:

- Choosing gratitude
- Acts of service
- Finding Joy in challenges
- Through collective worship, Christian celebrations, and special church events.
- Reading and following God's word
- We rejoice in one another's achievements, successes, and personal growth.
  
- We model joyful living through positive relationships, encouragement, humour and mutual respect.
- We encourage acts of generosity and service that bring happiness to others.

- We create opportunities for stillness, prayer, and reflection so pupils can experience peace and joy.
- We encourage children to flourish spiritually, socially, emotionally, and academically within a loving Christian community.

***Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls.***

***St Marie Teresa***

At school we take every opportunity to celebrate success with:

- House Points
- Growth Worship
- Milkshake Monday
- Head teacher postcards
- Marble jars
- Stickers and individual class reward systems.
- Positive phone calls home

**Joy is a Habit of the Heart:** Joy is a choice. Make it easier for your children to choose it by teaching them to ensure that they share joy and include others.

**Scripture The parable of the Lost Coin Luke 15:8-10,**

In this story, there was a woman who had ten silver coins. She was a poor woman, and the coins were important and precious to her. One day, the woman counted her coins and realised one had been lost. Frantically, the woman searched her whole house until she found it. The woman was so excited and full of joy about finding her lost coin, she went out to get her friends and invited them to her house for a big party. She had a long, joyous celebration with her friends.

This reminds us that every person is precious and important in the eyes of God. In our school, we aim to create a joyful community where everyone feels welcomed, included, and cared for. We celebrate each individual's achievements, talents, and uniqueness, and we support one another through both challenges and successes. The parable encourages us to share joy together, showing kindness, encouragement, and gratitude as we help every member of our school community to flourish.

# **TRUST**

***"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."***

**Proverbs 3: 5-6**



Trust sits at the heart of a healthy school community. It shapes how we learn, how we treat one another, and how we grow together. When trust is present, students feel safe to take risks in their learning, to ask questions, and to be themselves. Staff feel comfortable to collaborate openly, and relationships between school and home are strengthened. Trust also carries responsibility: we are trusted to do the right thing, to be honest in our work, and to care for the people and resources around us.

We develop the value of trust throughout school life by creating a caring and consistent environment where pupils feel safe, respected, and valued. Trust is nurtured through strong relationships between staff, pupils, families, and the wider community, built on honesty, fairness, and mutual respect. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions, make positive choices, and use their gifts and talents confidently, reflecting the message of the Parable of the Talents. Through collective worship, PSHE, classroom learning, leadership opportunities, and everyday interactions, children learn the importance of reliability, integrity, forgiveness, and supporting others. By modelling trust in our words and actions, we help pupils understand how trust strengthens our community and enables everyone to flourish.

## **How do we demonstrate our value of Trust at Lanchester E.P. School?**

- We build positive relationships based on mutual respect and understanding.
- We show forgiveness and reconciliation when relationships break down.
- We create a safe environment where everyone feels valued, listened to, and included.
- We create classrooms where everyone feels safe to contribute and ask questions.
- We follow the example of Jesus by treating others with kindness, compassion, and respect.
- We encourage every member of our school community to use their God-given talents and gifts.
- We support one another when challenges arise.
- We celebrate effort, honesty, and integrity as well as achievement.
- We take responsibility for our actions and seek forgiveness when we make mistakes.
- We show reliability by being prepared, punctual, and ready to learn.
- We trust pupils with responsibilities and leadership opportunities within the school community.
- We care for one another, offering support to those who may be struggling.
- We care for school property and shared resources responsibly.
- We use technology and communication responsibly and respectfully.
- We encourage pupils to make positive choices, even when no one is watching.
- We work in partnership with parents and carers through open communication.
- We model trust through strong relationships between staff, pupils, governors, and families.

## Scripture

### The parable of The Talents Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells of a wealthy master who entrusts his property to three servants before going on a journey. He gives one servant **five talents**, another **two talents**, and the third **one talent**, each according to their ability. The first two servants invest and double their amounts, while the third, out of fear, buries his talent in the ground. Upon the master's return, he commends the first two for their diligence and faithfulness, saying, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of your master"*

In the story, a master entrusts his servants with different amounts of money while he is away. The servants who use what they have been given wisely and faithfully are praised, while the one who hides his talent out of fear is challenged. The parable reminds us that trust is both a gift and a calling. Each of us is entrusted with abilities, opportunities, and relationships, and we are encouraged to use them with courage, integrity, and purpose.

As a school, we believe that trust means making the most of what we have been given. It is about being reliable, showing honesty, and taking responsibility for our actions. It also means believing in one another—recognising that everyone has unique talents and encouraging each person to grow and flourish. When we live out this value, we create a community where people feel valued and empowered.

By linking our understanding of trust to the Parable of the Talents, we are reminded that trust is active. It is not simply something we receive, but something we live out each day through our choices. We aim to be a school where trust leads to growth, where gifts are nurtured, and where everyone is encouraged to use what they have been given for the good of others.