

Woolhampton C of E Primary School



Christian Distinctiveness

‘enabling all to flourish’

Built on the rock of Christian faith, we work as a community to create an environment which enables all to flourish. Jesus welcomes all and we embrace diversity, celebrating our different gifts and successes. Like St Peter, we are motivated by our values, learn from our mistakes and strive for the best outcome for everyone.



St. Peter was a close friend and follower of Jesus. Originally a fisherman, Peter's name means "rock" and Jesus told Peter that he would be the rock upon which the church would be built. Peter demonstrated trust in Jesus, even stepping out of a boat and onto water. But Peter also made mistakes. He sometimes misunderstood Jesus. Yet, after Jesus' resurrection, Peter was restored and appointed a leader in the early church

(taken from Matthew 16:18)

Standing in the shadow of St Peter's Church, we have been inspired by the story of its Patron Saint. It is our belief that Woolhampton CE Primary School will be 'the rock', a safe and secure place that will be 'enable all to flourish', much like St. Peter was the rock on which the church community was built.

Our school has a distinctly welcoming and friendly Christian culture with high aspirations for every child characterised by our close links with parents and the local community. We are proud of our enthusiastic and dedicated staff team that is outward-facing, forward-thinking, open to change and, above all, passionate about learning.

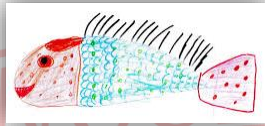
We aspire to meet the academic, physical and spiritual needs of all learners through a curriculum that inspires children to be naturally curious about God's creation. We offer a diverse range of opportunities in a stimulating learning environment where the physical surroundings are as inspirational and creative as the curriculum itself.

Our school is a place where all can flourish, regardless of background or ability because, like St. Peter, everyone should be given opportunities and we will empower children to take responsibility within their communities and become courageous advocates for change.

By the time a child leaves Woolhampton CE Primary School they will have had the opportunity to become a valued member of a Christian family where they are loved and cared for. Everyone will have experienced a rich, varied and exciting curriculum, gaining the knowledge and skills to be resilient and thrive.

We will celebrate success and everyone will know what it feels like to achieve and be the best they can be.

St Peter, the fisherman, inspired our school values of GEM powers like the gems (fish) of the sea.



At Woolhampton CE Primary School we believe we can demonstrate our **GEM powers** by:



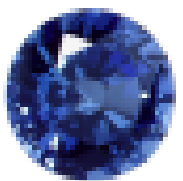
Being **motivated** and **enthusiastic** and **challenging** ourselves
Trying our very best and persevering



Believing in ourselves and others by working as a **team**
Not being afraid to make mistakes and **have a go**



Looking after ourselves and each other and **respecting** one another
Knowing we are **unique** and wonderful and celebrating this



Demonstrating the **British** values of **mutual respect** and **tolerance**, **liberty**, **rule of law** and **democracy**



Listening to each other
Living the **Christian** values in all we do

Our Christian values are very important to us and are at the centre of everything we do.

The teaching of values has always been seen as an important part of our ethos. It now has an enhanced profile and as a school we encourage all staff, governors and children to reflect on and articulate their values with much greater clarity and openness. These values are our motivation for valuing every child and adult, inspiring us to strive for the best outcomes for each individual. The values underpin our practice, guiding how we deal with day to day life in a small village primary school.

We have identified 4 core Christian values that are particularly special to us

R respect

We believe in upholding high levels of respect for all, where everyone is valued and appreciated.

O optimism (in biblical terms 'hope')

We believe that optimism doesn't mean pretending life is always wonderful. Optimism means embracing reality. We accept that there will be bad days, but also many good days. When we are grounded in reality, we know where we are and how far we need to go. Once we know how far our goal may be from where we are, optimism can give us the motivation to make plans to get to where we want to go.

C compassion

We believe that compassion, kindness and care are at the core of good human nature and are the basis for successful futures and positive relationships. Compassion is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try to help.

K koinonia (community)

How Christians come together as a family. The members of our school family are interdependent: all are needed and valued and each person is important to the whole. We are working together to ensure all feel included and valued. Koinonia comes from the Greek word meaning community or fellowship. This shows the special relationship we have with each other where as a community we look after each other, where we are welcomed and accepted, no matter who we are. We come together with Christ at the centre of our school.



Our local church is St Peter's in Woolhampton.

As a church school at the heart of the village community, Christian values underpin our work, our relationships and our commitment to ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils. We will strive to make our school welcoming, open and friendly with a positive Christian ethos where the views of the children and parents are valued.

Reverend Jane from St Peter's Church regularly leads our Collective Worship to help us reinforce our understanding of each value as she shares stories from the Bible and reflects on what they mean for us in our everyday life. Children have opportunities to plan, prepare and lead worship for the whole school as well as organising worship at key points in the Christian calendar for the whole school community. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through Collective Worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present.

Each term we focus on a different Christian Value. This is done explicitly through our Collective Worship time and also throughout our curriculum. Children have regular opportunities to reflect on each value and to develop an understanding of the value in action.

We promote the teaching of values through:

- ✠ Using a range of questions to help the whole school community reflect on each value
- ✠ Planned opportunities for collective worship which raises awareness of each aspect of the value
- ✠ Bible stories that are relevant to the themes of each value
- ✠ Stories from world faiths which illustrate the value
- ✠ Subjects taught in the curriculum that support understanding of the values in concrete situations
- ✠ A selection of practical follow-up classroom activities which engage and inspire

We are proud, as a Voluntary Aided Church of England Primary School, to be part of the Diocese of Oxford.



Our Diocese Foundation Governors are:

Rev Jane Manley Carly Madders Terry Webster Kim Wyrley-Birch



and our Parish Church Council (PCC) Governors are:

Kate Moir



Adrian Dean



Cynthia James



Our Church Schools Inspection (SIAMS)

As well as an OFSTED inspection, as a Church of England voluntary aided school we are also inspected by the Church. Our latest SIAMS inspection took place in October 2016 and the school was graded as 'Good' overall.