



Who among you is wise and understanding?
Let him show by his good behaviour his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.
James 3:13

At Pennington C of E School, we aim to provide our pupils with a Christian environment in which they can thrive and develop, to fulfil their potential. We asked children, parents, governors and staff what they saw as the most important Christian Values for our school to develop to create that Christian ethos. We adopted 8 Christian Values which guide and support that journey and which permeate throughout school life: Koinonia, Friendship, Forgiveness, Trust, Endurance, Hope, Thankfulness and Honesty. They provide all people at Pennington C of E school, adults and children alike, with a Christian environment in which to work and learn.

Our values are celebrated both explicitly and implicitly. Our New school logo reflects our values in its design. Our values are displayed around the school, in classes and public places. They support our pupil's charter and behaviour reward system. They are explored through collective worship and discussed in class time - children are asked 'Which Christian values have you seen in action today?' Their meaning and foundation are explored through the Bible. The relationships within school are founded on our values and we are proud of the warm and nurturing atmosphere we have. Each half term one of the values becomes a focus for our worship. However we encourage and develop all the values, at all times. Here is how we see each value in Pennington.

Koinonia

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts;
and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.
(1 Corinthians 12:12-13)*

Koinonia means 'that which is in common' and is often translated as 'fellowship' or 'community'. Our school motto is 'Enjoying Learning Together' and we are very proud of our Pennington Family. Every pupil in the school is a member of a family group which regularly learns, plays and eats together. Each Reception pupil has a Year 6 buddy who supports them, and children often keep in touch even when they have left the school. The bird on our new school logo represents that family. The school council has a member from each class and every pupil has the opportunity to contribute through

class circle time. As our school song says "At Pennington we are one."

Friendship

'A friend loves at all times.' (Proverbs 17:17)

Pupils spend as much time with their 'Pennington Family' as they do with their own family. Trust, feeling comfortable in each other's company, being able to share joys and sorrows are all features of friendship. Pupils have the opportunity to share their feelings and experiences in circle time, including show and tell in the younger classes. We celebrate pupils' achievements in our Special Mention assembly. We take part in many community activities and welcome parents and visitors into our school. Visitors have frequently remarked on the warm and welcoming feeling of the school, and how much they have enjoyed their time with us. We pride ourselves on a Pennington Friendship, which extends into our community. The heart on our new school logo is a sign of the care and compassion we show each other.

Forgiveness

For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (Matthew 6:14)

Jesus was uncompromising in his command to forgive. Forgive, he said, 'seventy times seven' (Matthew 18:21). Our school behaviour system rewards good behaviour and provides pupils with an opportunity to think about behaviour that does not fit with our pupil charter. Each day the pupils start at the beginning, regardless what has happened previously - a fresh start every day. Children have the opportunity to think about others' behaviour that has affected them, what they can do about it and most importantly how they can move on from it. Children are encouraged to apologise to others they may have upset, and to accept apologies given.

Trust

*The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.
My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.* Psalm 28:7

Right at the centre of our new school logo is the cross - representing our trust in God. We nurture the relationships between adults and pupils at Pennington C of E School and are proud of the relationship we have with each other. Pupils are confident to share their ideas with others, knowing they will be valued. They confidently work with

different children and staff in different situations and know that they will be supported. We have several groups for children who may need support, and the children know that the staff are there to help them achieve their potential. We welcome parents' ideas and suggestions through half-termly parent voice meetings and these are fed back to staff and acted upon.

Endurance

*For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.
(Psalm 100:5)*

Our new school logo features a tree which represents the Pennington Child flourishing and growing, and a pencil which is a sign of our hardworking ethic, of our desire to achieve and always do our best. We encourage all our pupils to strive for their best, to achieve their full potential, while acknowledging that this may not be an easy journey. We celebrate pupils and staff's achievements, both inside school and in their personal lives, in our celebration assembly and, for the younger classes, in show and tell. Our school reward system celebrates pupils hard work and effort. Pupils regularly support each other in family days, or group work in class. A Pennington pupil knows that some things may be a bit tricky, or challenging, but that it is worth the effort in the end.

Hope

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
(Hebrews 11:1)*

'Hope is not wishful thinking but a firm assurance that God can be relied upon.' At Pennington C of E School we regularly look to the Bible for inspiration, support and guidance, to enrich our collective worship and to help us understand the values we try to live by. Our new logo has the cross at the centre to remind us that we can rely on God to guide us. As it says on our website....

"We believe in not 'standing still', looking forward to a future that is full of promise and wonder."

We are always looking for ways to improve ourselves. We conduct pupil and parent questionnaires, we have a parent voice group, our school and class councils actively look for things the school can do to move forwards. We also look further afield, to how we can contribute to a better community and world around us. We regularly participate in

fund raising and charity events from harvest festival contributions for the local homeless shelter to national events like Red Nose Day and Jeans for Genes.

As it says on the front page of our website "At Pennington School, we are not afraid to dream!" and we do that with trust in God's guidance.

Thankfulness

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.

My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. (Psalm 28:7)

For Christians the greatest of all acts of worship is simply called 'thanksgiving'. We carry out daily acts of worship in which we regularly thank God for what He has given us. We also celebrate the skills and talents we have in our special mention assemblies. We encourage the children celebrate their local culture and traditions by participating in many local events like the Canal Anchor Festival or Another Fine Fest. But we also encourage the children to look further afield, around the world, to see what cultures and traditions other countries have, what they are thankful for.

Honesty

Do to others as you would have them do to you. (Luke 6:31)

Being honest can sometimes be difficult, and we acknowledge that at Pennington C of E School. But we encourage all children to be honest, to take responsibility for their own actions, to be proud of who they are. We explore honesty and truthfulness not only through our collective worship but also through lessons about British values. We have an open culture and are proud to call ourselves a 'talking school'. We want pupils to realise that honesty is the best policy and this is often discussed and explored through circle time and collective worship. We think about the importance of honesty and truthfulness in school and in society and we aim to equip the pupils to make informed moral choices.

At Pennington C of E School, our Christian Values are an intrinsic, guiding part of our school life. They permeate everything we do and we are proud of the Christian Ethos we have created.