

## FORGIVENESS

In the Lord's Prayer, we ask God to forgive us our sins or trespasses 'as we forgive those who sin against us'. Unfortunately, as we know, people frequently find it difficult to apologise to other people, or to forgive each other. Jesus told us we must reconcile with our adversaries, forgive their transgressions, and let go of the anger that may tempt us to commit an act of revenge. 'I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5 v 43—45). In school this Christian value relates to repairing damaged relationships and conflict resolution. Do children and adults know that whatever they do, forgiveness is possible? ('Love the sinner but not the sin.')

## EQUALITY

Equality and inclusiveness, regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion, social or economic status, shine through Biblical teaching. Throughout the Gospels Jesus himself is shown mixing with, and loving and supporting, the 'outcasts' of society.

*Galatians 3:38: 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'*

*John 13:6: 'Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.'*

*Mark 12:31: 'The second is this: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.'*

In school this value relates to the call to take responsibility for one another and encourages antidiscrimination. Pupils are encouraged to recognise inequality and injustice in the world and to think about their own potential role in fighting it.

## OUR SCHOOL PRAYER...

In 2014, the children entered a competition to write a school prayer that encompassed our school values.

*Dear Lord,*

*Help us to 'Prepare for **Life**' by*

***Loving** each other,*

*Acting with **integrity** and truth,*

***Forgiving** people by being strong in our hearts,*

*And treating others with **equality** and respect.*

*Help us to remember these values on our big adventure to adulthood.*

*Amen.*



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FOUR MARKS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL



## OUR CORE CHRISTIAN VALUES

The person you are, is an expression of your core values. They determine how you think and what you do. They shape your purpose and determine your vision. They establish your character. In fact, they are extremely important to who you are.

As a Christian School Community, we believe that the ethos of our school should be built on a foundation of core Christian Values. The staff, children and governors have agreed the following four core values that we feel support our school motto which is 'To prepare children for life':

**L**ove  
**I**ntegrity  
**F**orgiveness, and  
**E**quality

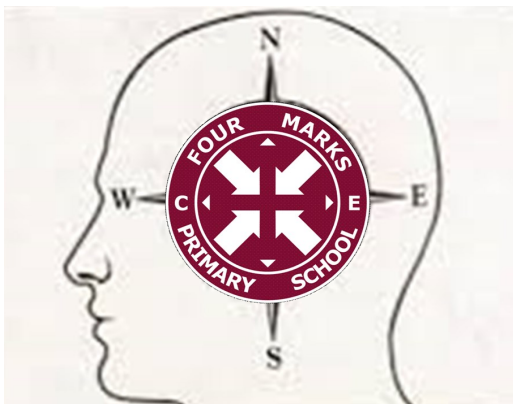
which will be promoted in school.

'To prepare children for life'

These core values will help us sustain an ethos which supports our aim for children to live happy, safe, healthy and fulfilling lives, to become confident individuals and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

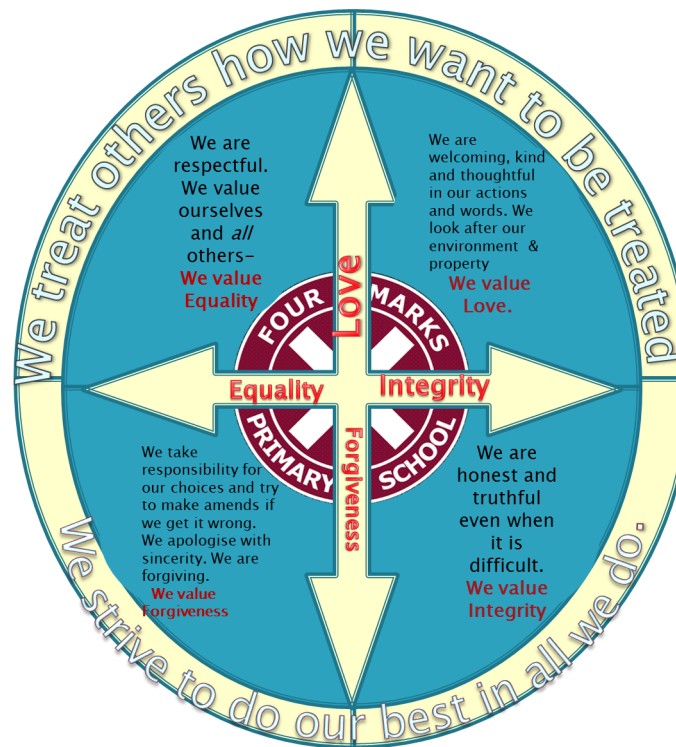
We hope that our core values will help children understand that there are some central beliefs that people hold, and learn to fall back on these when making choices and decisions. Core values are an important guiding tool.

Our school badge, an image of a cross roads, shows our values pointing the 'way' to the cross in the centre, symbolic of Jesus and his teachings. This image helps children to see these elements as the foundations of the 'moral compass'.



We will encourage children to consider these values, thereby developing their social, emotional, spiritual and moral understanding.

Our Values are also central to our Behaviour Policy, and the 'Golden Rules' that we encourage children to follow in school.



*“So let’s choose for ourselves what is right.  
Let’s learn together what is good.”  
Job 34:4*

## LOVE

For Christians Love is the key Christian value—it lies at the root of all other values. It means respect, affection, benevolence, goodwill and concern for the welfare of others. It means putting others first before oneself. In His Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus made the point that we should extend our Christian love to all people of the world, regardless of race, religion, nationality or any other artificial distinction.

Jesus’ Golden Rule is, ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’ We should not say or do anything unless we are certain that we are happy the same thing should be done to ourselves.

In school, love translates into an ethos of care and concern which embraces all members of the school community.

## INTEGRITY

Honesty and integrity are held as very important values throughout the Bible. In John’s Gospel Jesus Himself is described as ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life’. In school, we encourage members of the community to:

- be truthful in their dealings with one another.
- be true to themselves.
- make informed moral choices.

And, of course, learning engages with the search for truth and meaning.