



Dunchurch Boughton C of E Infant Academy and Nursery

The promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC)

Roots to grow. Wings to fly.

Vision and Ethos

Our vision as a Church of England Infant school, deeply rooted in a strong Christian tradition, is to develop happy children with enquiring minds. We support children to develop a spirit of curiosity and respect for themselves, others, and the environment which we live in so that they will have the skills and resilience to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

As part of the Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust, we have a shared vision of 'Living life in all its fullness', educating for

- wisdom, knowledge and skills: enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.
- hope and aspiration: enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.
- community and living well together: a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.
- dignity and respect: the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

Our theologically rooted school vision is based on the Parable of the Mustard Seed, taken from the Gospel of Matthew, reflecting our local rural community and the young age of our children.

Jesus told his followers the Parable of the Mustard Seed:

- A farmer went to plant some seeds in his field.
- He looked at the mustard seeds – they looked very small and not at all important.
- The farmer planted the seeds in good soil and took great care to ensure they had everything that they needed.
- Slowly, the little seeds grew into small plants.
- Each day the farmer tended to the plants, and they continued to grow taller and taller still.
- The plants grew into the biggest of all plants, into the size of a tree! The birds came and nested in the branches of the trees.
- The parable teaches us that the smallest things we do can grow into something bigger than we could ever imagine.

The meaning of the parable can be interpreted as below:

- Just like the mustard seeds who appeared small in the beginning, children start their journey at the academy at a young age.
- Dunchurch is the good soil for the children, providing them with the teachings of academic learning, values, learning behaviours, extra-curricular trip and visitors, character and personal development and the word of God.
- Provided with high quality teaching, learning experiences, and a development of character the children begin to develop their roots.
- Through the development of values and learning behaviours, children persevere and become resilient, and begin to learn how they can begin to make a difference in the world. The roots become stronger still, supporting the children to grow.
- As farmers, the adults continuously tend to the children with love, supporting them to develop deep roots that enable them to grow and flourish into all that they can be.
- Just like the branches of the mustard tree that are safe spaces for the birds, our school is a welcoming safe space for all, regardless of background or ability.
- Having developed strong roots to grow, just like the birds in the parable, our children are ready to grow their wings and fly onto their next stage of education, be that their next class or next school.
- Great things come from small beginnings – just like our small children who have grown and flourished in their time at school.

At Dunchurch, we strive to provide the rich soil that enables our children and adults to develop the deep roots to enable them to grow and flourish, from small beginnings comes great things. We aim that everyone feels valued and has respect for themselves, others and the environment in which we live, living together as a school family, just as the birds did within the plant. Within our community, we nurture growth and support everyone to have the courage to face challenge and the resilience to persevere, even when confronted by difficulties. We endeavour to provide abundant opportunities which provide a platform for unique strengths and talents to blossom, providing all with the wings to fly.

Aims and objectives

At Dunchurch Boughton C of E Infant Academy and Nursery we strive to create a learning environment which promotes respect, diversity and self-awareness and equips all of our pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they will need to succeed in their future lives.

Collective worship, establishing a strong school ethos, positive relationships throughout the school, and providing relevant activities beyond the classroom are all ways of ensuring pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC).

Our curriculum provides a wide range of artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities that encourage pupils to work together and use imagination in their learning. Activities are planned that require pupils to reflect and empathise with others, as well as giving them the confidence to share their opinions and develop their own view points.

Throughout the school, we promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development focuses on an individual's own personal beliefs and values and their resulting behaviours. Through spiritual development, children are able to understand their own feelings and emotions and this enables them to reflect and to learn. Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance.

As part of our school offer:

- Each class has an event within each half termly topic where they experience fascination, awe and wonder
- Children learn about themselves and the world around them throughout the curriculum
- Children are given chance to explore and reflect on the viewpoints beliefs of themselves and others, developing respect for cultures and developing tolerance and harmony
- All members of the school community show respect for different people's feelings, opinions, values and religion
- Children are provided with opportunities to reflect on their experiences
- Children are given opportunities to use imagination and creativity in their learning
- Children are given chance to explore human feelings and emotions
- Children are given opportunities to learn about the beliefs and festivals of different religions
- Christian values are learnt about and promoted, including through the use of the weekly gold book, celebrating values
- Collective worships sessions from clergy and daily collective worship promote spiritual development
- Visits to places of worship, including termly church visits take place
- Children are taught to value themselves and their achievements
- Children display a sense of empathy, compassion and concern for others

- Children have the opportunity to consider what they have achieved and how they might achieve in the future
- An ethos is in place where everyone can grow and flourish, demonstrating respect for themselves and others
- Remembrance Sunday is commemorated annually, with the school making wreathes to place on local war memorials
- The children make Christingles which are used for services in church throughout advent
- A spirituality approach based upon windows, mirrors, doors and candles is in place (see separate document)

Moral Development

Moral development means exploring, understanding and recognising shared values and considering the issues of right and wrong.

It is expected that pupils should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law.

The school's ethos and teaching supports the rule of English civil and criminal law and encourages respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

As part of our school offer:

- The school is inclusive for all
- Children understand that we are all unique and that this should be celebrated
- Children are taught the difference between right and wrong and apply it in their everyday life
- Conflict resolution is taught and encouraged by all members of staff
- Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions through a restorative justice approach, understanding the consequences when things go wrong
- Children are given chance to discuss moral scenarios as part of P.S.H.E. and collective worship, given chance to offer age appropriate reasoned views about moral and ethical issues
- There are minimal rules in school (ready to learn, respect and safe behaviours) ensuring that all children understand and articulate these
- Children are taught why rules exist within the school and beyond
- Children follow the school rules and understand there are consequences to their actions
- The use of the gold book promotes empathy and understanding for one another
- An age appropriate understanding of healthy relationships is taught through the P.S.H.E. curriculum
- The Warwickshire Protective behaviours program is taught, developing an understanding of health relationships
- The school relationships and behaviour policy is applied consistently and fairly
- Antibullying and mental health weeks are promoted
- By inviting visitors into school, children are taught about the work of, and to respect, those services that help us such as firefighters, police etc.
- The school community demonstrates a respect for other's needs, interests and feelings as well as their own
- Staff model, through the quality of relationships and interactions, the principles which they wish to promote, e.g. fairness, respect, empathy, conflict resolution and tolerance
- Children are taught how to forgive themselves and others

- Children are taught how to cope with setbacks and learn from their mistakes
- Children are taught how to respect the environment and the world around them

Social Development

Social development involves learners working effectively together and participating successfully in the school community as a whole. During a pupil's social development they gain interpersonal skills that allow them to form successful relationships and to become a positive team member. Through the promotion of and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs the children will develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain. To ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, and to demonstrate how democracy works we actively promote the democratic process through the election of our school council whose members are voted for by the pupils. The school council play a vital role in providing a voice for all the pupils in school and helping with the Head of School with decision making. The values of Respect, Generosity, Thankfulness, Honesty, Forgiveness and Courage are explicitly taught and modelled throughout the school.

As part of our school offer:

- Children are taught to identify how they belong to different groups e.g. family, school, Scouts, church
- Children happily work with different people within their class, no prejudice is shown
- Values and beliefs of others are explored through P.S.H.E., R.E., collective worship and other curriculum areas
- Children socialise across the year groups at playtime and lunchtime
- Children cooperate well with each other
- Conflict resolution is taught and encouraged by all members of staff as part of a restorative justice approach
- Children take part in community events such as church services and other church and community-based events as they arise
- Talk partners are used extensively throughout the school
- Sports days take place in mixed age group teams
- Children are given opportunities to work together as groups and teams throughout the curriculum
- The promotion of British Values is embedded throughout the school
- The school Council is voted for democratically
- Community visitors are welcomed into school
- Charity days are held to encourage children to reflect on their own contribution to society and to consider how they can affect change
- All members of the school community show respect for people, living things, property and the environment
- Courageous advocacy is promoted and encouraged
- A wide range of after school clubs are on offer

Furthermore, we aim to enable students to flourish through growing their knowledge, self-confidence and resilience so that they can keep themselves mentally healthy. At Dunchurch Infants, we use restorative justice to listen to and support all children across the school to resolve conflict.

Cultural Development

Cultural development enables learners to develop an understanding of their own culture and of other cultures locally, nationally and internationally. It also means learning to feel comfortable in a variety of cultures and valuing cultural diversity.

As part of our school offer:

- Children demonstrate respect for all , regardless of race, religion or beliefs
- Cultural diversity is celebrated as part of RE passport to world views days
- Personal world views and the world views of others are explored throughout the RE curriculum and world views days
- Different cultures are learnt about in RE lessons
- Different cultural stories are shared as part of story times and within curriculum lessons
- Days take place which are over and above curriculum requirements such as – RE days, Internet Safety day, charity days and Science days.
- Each child within the school has the opportunity to perform on stage at least once per year
- Each year group has the opportunity to lead a service for their parents e.g. Harvest, Mother's Day and Father's Day
- A theatre trip is arranged for every child in the school once per year
- The children visit the CBSO centre in Birmingham to listen to a children's concert from the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra during their time at the school
- All children in KS1 are given the opportunity to learn to play a tuned instrument (glockenspiel)
- All children in school take part in sports day
- Children in KS1 have the opportunity to take part in sports competitions with local schools
- Understanding how Christian festivals are celebrated in different parts of the world is part of our RE programme
- Children are taught to recognise similarities between different cultures
- School council activities to enable the children to have a voice in improving the school
- The development of perseverance and resilience is actively promoted throughout the school
- School learning behaviours are promoted and encouraged consistently by all staff, with children having a clear understanding of these
- All children learn about health eating, maintaining an active lifestyle and keeping physically and mentally healthy
- Children are given chance to share individual talents and relationships within their classes and as part of the whole school
- A wide range of extra curriculum clubs are available
- An additional member of staff is in place at lunchtimes to lead and encourage team games
- Children in EYFS experience weekly core strength activities to ensure they have developed these skills to support them with later learning
- An effective online safety curriculum is in place
- Effective transition arrangements are in place between Dunchurch Infants and the local feeder school (Dunchurch Juniors)
- Home visits / Nursery visits take place for those who start Reception from different nurseries, all parents are offered this should they wish to take it up
- All children are given the opportunity to visit an art gallery or work with a local artist in their time at the school

- Remembrance Sunday is commemorated annually, with the school making wreathes to place on local war memorials
- The children make Christingles which are then used for a Christingle service