

ENJOY LEARNING:
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!



South Darley C.E. Primary School

8.9.23

Dear Parents,

As a Church of England school, we are rooted in the traditions of the church and our founding documents ensure we frame our learning within the teachings of the Bible. From the recent parent surveys and feedback, we know that parents want us to ensure strong moral values are at the forefront of what their children will learn and develop, regardless of the strength of their Christian beliefs. Whilst our Religious Education covers all major world religions and beliefs, the Christian Ethos is what underpins our values structure and is what is core to our beliefs as a school.

In order to be sensitive to the needs of all our families and our community, we have always tried to be proud of our values and beliefs in an understated way. However, the new SIAMS Church inspection framework advises our school vision to have overtly Christian references to scripture so that it is clear to all that it is the Bible that frames our vision and values as a school.

After consulting widely, we believe the following pieces of scripture best encapsulate the vision we have for everyone at our school:

Living as Children of Light [Ephesians 5:8], for if we walk in the light, as Jesus is in the light, we will have fellowship together [1 John 1:7]

We believe that the symbolism of light is an easy one for all ages to understand. It means that learning leads to enlightenment, and that the more children know about the world around them, the greater depth of understanding they have and the further they can see. As teachers, we try to illuminate a path for children to follow, shedding light on things children didn't know were there, and being a guiding light when things get tough.

As a school, we always try and give children opportunities to shine, whether that be academic, sporting, or artistic, and we also try to be the spark that lets children's imaginations and aspirations reach for the stars (sources of light).

Light, in the form of the sun, is one of the essential components for growth, and so by living in the light, our children will grow and be nurtured into the best of themselves.

Light is always thought about as a force of good and so by living in light, we will all be doing kind, caring, thoughtful things for each other.

Living as children of light also ensures that we are always ensuring that our behaviours and values set an example for others to follow.

' We strive to be: living as Children of Light (Ephesians 5:8), for if we walk in the light, as Jesus is in the light, we will have fellowship together. (1 John 1:7)



children of light, as Jesus did, then we will have fellowship together i.e. it will bring us closer and stronger together as a community.

Also, by using the idea of light, we are honouring the people in our community in our founding year, 1860, many of whom were lead miners who used light and lanterns, or farmers, who relied on the sun and the seasons for their crops to grow.

From now on, we will be using this idea of light in many areas of school. We will be talking to the children about the symbolism of light, bringing it into collective worship, and making the piece of scripture quoted more visible on our communications with parents. It will inform our vision, and we will hope it will become a natural part of our school.

Regards,

Paul Wilde
Headteacher