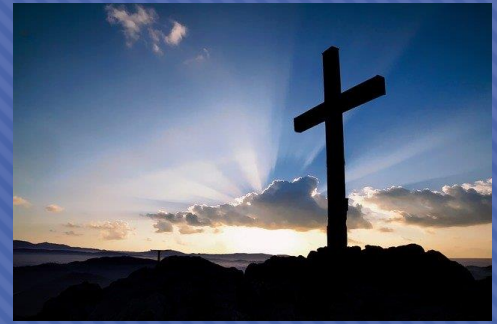


The Christian Distinctiveness of Loxley Primary School

Pupil Conference held on Wednesday 12th February, 2020

Introduction



- To help with the ongoing evaluation of the **Christian distinctiveness** of our school, **Mrs Barrick** and **Mrs Edgar** decided to hold a **Pupil Conference**.
- The Conference explored the children's thoughts and feelings about our **school vision** and values, **Collective Worship**, **RE lessons** and our use of **prayer** and **reflection time**.
- Over the day, ten children from across the school were invited to take part in the conference, including: **Lola H** (Year 5), **Seth** (Year 5), **Caleb** (Year 4), **Thomas** (Year 4), **Tink** (Year 4), **Lola T** (Year 3), **Stan** (Year 3) **Tyler** (Year 3), **Will** (Year 2) and **Ellie** (Reception).

What does our vision mean to you?

- **Will:** “It means I try to follow in Jesus’ footsteps in every way I can.”
- **Lola TA:** “It means we need to be like Jesus and treat others the way we want to be treated.”
- **Caleb:** “To me, it means we need to always be kind to others, to help them and to care for the world by planting new trees and cutting out pollution.”
- **Tink:** “It means we can flourish – growing to be kind and healthy. We should spread our love and kindness around the world.”
- **Stan:** “It means that at Loxley we live our lives like Jesus did, trying to help other people and think about others, not just ourselves.”

Can you explain one of our Christian values and what it means to you?

- **Tyler:** “Community means we live in harmony, just like a family.”
- **Seth:** “Wisdom means we use the things we have learned at school the right way, not to show off but to help others.”
- **Ellie:** “Joy means being really happy, like on Tuesdays when I have art and music!”
- **Caleb:** “Hope means being hopeful for yourself and others, thinking about what is possible if you work hard. Peace means to me that I need to relax and be thankful for all the things that God has made.”
- **Will:** “To me Hope means that I keep on going even if there’s only the slightest chance I will be able to do it – I just have to keep trying.”

How do we promote the living out of Christian values in our school?

- **Lola H:** *“When we come together in Collective Worship each day, we talk about our values and how to show them.”*
- **Tyler:** *“The Teachers are an example of how we should treat others and how we should be.”*
- **Lola TA:** *“The teachers sign our ‘Catch Me...’ cards”*
- **Caleb:** *“Our Guiding Lights help show us the right way.”*

**All children in the group commenting on having their ‘Catch Me...’ cards signed many times.*

How do our vision and values influence your life, both in and out of school?

- **Seth:** *"It all just encourages me to do what it right."*
- **Thomas:** *"The vision and values help me follow in the footsteps of Jesus."*
- **Stan:** *"The vision and values make me look back on what I've been doing and ask myself if I'm being the best I can be."*

What do you like about Collective Worship?

What improvements have been made?

- **Tyler:** *"I like Collective Worship because it's a time to be together and talk about our values."*
- **Seth:** *"I like it that we think about different values each day now, not just the same value for a whole half term."*
- **Lola H:** *"Collective Worship used to be straight after lunch but now it's in the morning. This means we can have the whole day now to think about what we have discussed and how we can improve ourselves."*

In what different ways can you choose to take an active role in Collective Worship?

- **Lola TA:** *"By answering questions – you put your hand up or sometimes your lolly pop stick gets chosen."*
- **Seth:** *"Singing hymns – singing is a way to praise God from a different perspective. The older ones also read parts of the Bible out loud."*
- **Ellie:** *"Joining in with prayers by closing my eyes and saying AMEN."*
- **Thomas:** *"The older children write in the Collective Worship log, so we can keep a record of what we have talked about."*
- **Lola H:** *"The School Council and Collective Worship Team lead our worship sometimes and sometimes other children help to act out the stories being told."*

How does Collective Worship help you in and out of school?

- **Will:** *"It helps me to think about what is right for me and helps me to change to be the best person I can be."*
- **Thomas:** *"It makes me realise that the little things I do can make a big difference to others. God and Jesus are there with me to guide me on the right path."*
- **Stan:** *"It makes me look back on what I've done and whether it was the right thing to do."*

What do you enjoy about RE lessons in school?

- **Seth:** *“We’re not just ‘told’ about religion. We get to explore and express what we think and believe too.”*
- **Tyler:** *“RE lessons teach you stories from different religions to give you lots of knowledge.”*
- **Ellie:** *“I liked learning about Eid because we made Eid snacks and it was fun.”*

Why do you think it is important to learn about different religions in our RE lessons, not just Christianity?

- **Seth:** “Just because we attend a Christian school doesn’t mean we have to be Christians when we grow up. You might be a theist but you haven’t yet decided which religion you want to follow.”
- **Caleb:** “If we didn’t learn about other religions, we could be disrespectful without even knowing it.”
- **Thomas:** “You can learn lots from other religions and there might be ways or ideas from other religions that you want to follow like ‘Hurt no living thing’ from Buddhism.”

How are you challenged in RE lessons?

- **Will:** *“We are encouraged to think about what is the same and what is different between religions.”*
- **Lila:** *“Our Teachers sometimes write ‘Pink to think’ questions in our RE books.”*
- **Seth:** *“We are encouraged to show our learning in lots of different ways, through art, writing, on the computer and so on.”*

When and how do we use prayer in school?

What does prayer mean to you? Do you have a favourite prayer?

- **Seth:** *"We have a rhythm of prayer throughout each school day." (Will went on to confidently explain this rhythm) "The Lord's Prayer is special to me – to think that I'm saying the first prayer ever said and that it was Jesus who said it first."*
- **Lola TA:** *"Prayer is important to me because I'm speaking to God, like when I need help with something and no-one else is there."*
- **Ellie:** *"I love the prayer I've written because it's about peace and I want everyone to have peace."*

How and why are daily reflection time important to you? What different activities does your class do during whole class reflection time?

- **Ellie:** "I love it because we get to do mindful colouring."
- **Seth:** "After a hectic lunchtime, it just gives us 5 minutes to have peace and calm down."
- **Tyler:** "We all make mistakes and reflection time gives us time to think about what we might have done wrong."
- **Lola TA:** "We listen to mindful music and we colour detailed patterns. It gives me time to think about things, how to help other people and how to care for the world."
- **Lola H:** "We do yoga and I find it calming and relaxing."
- **Thomas:** "It just makes me calm down and feel more relaxed."
- **Tink:** "It gives me time to think about just how lucky I am in my life."

How do we show the world that we are a church school?

- **Lola H:** *“We work hard to help others in need, like charities and our international school link.”*
- **Will:** *“Each classroom has its own reflection area.”*
- **Tyler:** *“Our Christ the Sower mosaic outside shows anyone visiting or walking past.”*
- **Thomas:** *“We say and write prayers.”*
- **Lola H:** *“We do yoga and I find it calming and relaxing.”*

And finally, what is special to you about Loxley School?

- **Lola TA:** *“Our school is full of lovely people – without the people it wouldn’t be special.”*
- **Thomas:** *“We are part of a family. We make friends here and build up our knowledge here. Our teachers know us. It’s a lovely place to be!”*
- **Seth:** *“The inclusive nature of our school. We are people from lots of different backgrounds but we make up one, special family.”*
- **Lola H:** *“We get to do so many different activities at school and we also get to help others.”*

Staff are so proud of our kind,
caring and thoughtful children at
Loxley CofE Primary School.

Their responses from the Pupil
Conference show us just how
far they have already come
on their spiritual journey.

We look forward to continuing
to guide them along their unique
paths of self-discovery...

