Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School Christian Ethos

Our vision

Our Christian family cares that every individual is valued and allowed to achieve their own personal goals. We persevere and enjoy our learning. Through faith in ourselves and God every mustard seed knows they can move mountains and flourish.

Capel St Mary is where we CARE for one another on a daily basis. It is where we strive to ACHIEVE our best in everything we do. We PERSEVERE when we identify challenges both academic, emotionally and socially to help us to grow as people. We ENJOY being in school, learning and developing friendships and finally we LEARN not just about the world around us but also about ourselves and the people we want to be to do good in the world. Each of these values are rooted in our Christian ethos which encourages us to have faith in God and in ourselves to achieve great things. This links with our Christian motto, "With faith as small as a mustard seed, you can move a mountain" based on the Bible verse,

"Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:20.

Our Ethos and theological underpinning

Our school vision at Capel is underpinned by the theology of the parable of the Mustard Seed. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning intended to be experienced by Christians in this lifetime. This parable is an analogy that something so small, with humble beginnings, can grow to be amazing to behold. This tells us that everywhere God's word goes is powerful and overcomes. The symbol of the mustard seed is not a symbol of power but if planted and cared for can lead to a mighty tree. This tells us if we plant God's word and the tenets of Christian values in our school these will grow to be mighty providing the children with a firm foundation for their future.

At Capel we always seek to provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment for all, as we know this is needed for everyone to feel ready to learn, to flourish and to succeed. We also know that we grow and adapt by experiencing carefully created and controlled challenges. Through this, we become aware of the need to persevere and take ownership of our own development. Jesus' teaching to have faith as small as a mustard seed then nothing is impossible guides us support our peers and care for each other, aim to be the best we can be and achieve our dreams, to be resilient when things get tough, to enjoy both our learning, our friends and the world around us and focus on learning and the importance of developing our knowledge and skills to be used to make the world a better place.

Our school's core Christian Values reflect our vision and Jesus' teachings and we continue to explore their meaning through discussion, prayer and collective worship:

Care – Generosity and Compassion

Achieve – Perseverance and Service

Persevere – Courage and Truthfulness/Trust

Enjoy – Friendship and Thankfulness

Learn - Respect/Justice and Forgiveness

A school motto and mascot were developed that would align with both the Christian and current school values to support the vision for school development both internally and within the wider community. By doing this we were able to link our school and Christian values together and provide the children with a memorable way (through a school mascot Monty the Mustard Seed and school song) to remember the links we wished to embed across the school while remaining inclusive for a community where the majority of families choose not to attend Church regularly. These links are regularly reinforced through the use of theme days annually, daily reminders present in our classrooms and collective worship with a Capel and Christian value link and through the reward system of the school.

Our curriculum and teaching aim to equip children with the skills to grow and flourish in the wide and diverse world around us. Through use of the CUSP curriculum, The Cambridge Scheme for PSHE and the Suffolk Agreed Syllabus for RE the children in our school have a wealth of opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them while nurturing the core values of Care, Achieve, Persevere, Enjoy and Learn which are at the centre of our ethos and daily practice at Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School.