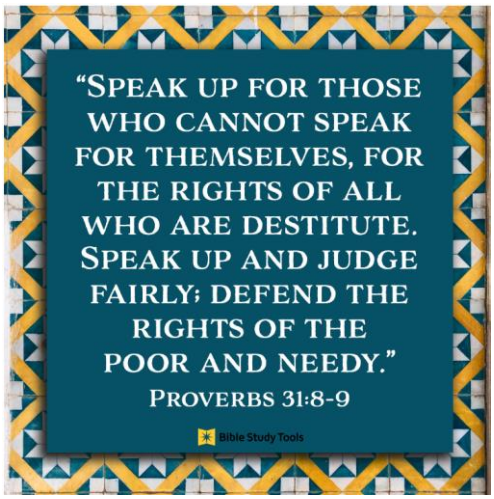
What is courageous advocacy?

Courageous advocacy is defined by the Church of England as "the act of speaking out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard". At Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School we encourage and support our children to become courageous advocates who believe that they can become agents for change to strive towards a fairer and more harmonious world. This means that they champion causes that are special and meaningful to them; connected to matters and concerns personal and close to home for them or linked to wider global issues.



Courageous Advocacy at Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School

Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School is a strong Christian community where were strive to Care, Achieve, Persevere, Enjoy and Learn. Our school community is guided by God's teaching in relation to these values where children develop into happy and thriving individual's who understand that with faith in God and ourselves, we can achieve great things through personal and communal growth. Using these values, beliefs and God's word we can go out into the world and be a light and encouragement for others.

Acts of Courageous Advocacy at Capel St Mary are driven by our school's Christian vision. We believe that through caring for one another and the world around us that everyone can be an agent for change and good. Care is one of our core school values and we explore this through the Christian values of generosity and compassion (among others). Another of our core Christian values is service. We actively promote the value of serving God and by doing that, serving others in the school, local and global communities.

In collective worship, RE lessons and other times of reflection and prayer, biblical references are explored to deepen children's understanding and enable them to live out our Christian values and vision to care for each other and enable both themselves and others to flourish. Children learn how Jesus demonstrated values of care, achieve, persevere, enjoy and learn and are inspired to follow his example to us. Children and adults learn about the life of Jesus and God's vision for the world and reflect on the message of the Bible in the context of their own character and actions.

Jesus spoke up for people who were disadvantaged, disempowered and ignored by their communities. Children are encouraged to reflect on Jesus' actions and teaching to inform their own values, judgements and courageous choices. Other learning experiences include, PSHE lessons, The Big Question collective worship where we consider key questions linked to both Christian and British Values. This enables our children to grow in character and independence, develop their sense of respect and justice, and grow in courage and develop the skills and desire "to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves". (Proverbs 31:8).

The Church of England also promotes the Christian values of wisdom, community and dignity as key values associated with courageous advocacy. For more insight into the theology behind courageous advocacy, refer to section 1 in the Church of England document, 'Courageous Advocacy'.