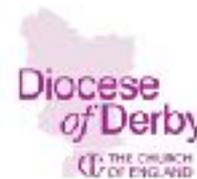


DIGNITY (1)

Derby Diocesan Board of Education Christian Value for the Year 2019/20

Christian Value of the Year



Dignity is the shared Christian value for this year across Church schools in Derby Diocese. It will be reinforced each term through our school mailings and will culminate in the Bishop's Badge being awarded to one individual from each school as nominated by the Head for the child who best embodies that value and also to any school based project that has promoted a sense of dignity.

Human dignity, the ultimate worth of each person, is central to good education

Some thinking taken from 'Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good - The Church of England Vision for Education'

Human dignity as image-bearers of the Creator is fundamental to a Christian's understanding of what it means to be human. Add to that the belief that all are loved by God and this love was supremely shown through the person, teaching and example of Jesus. In the story Jesus told about a lost son it is clear that the father's love for his wayward son is unbounded and all forgiving. Jesus told this story to show what God's love is like for us wayward human beings. This is captured beautifully by Rembrandt in 'The Return of the Prodigal' and is explored by Henri Nouwen in his book with the same title and the poignant sub-title of *A Story of Homecoming*.

Jesus paid special attention to the disadvantaged, excluded, despised and feared. The ultimate worth of each person is shown in the Gospels through his teaching, healing, feeding, sharing hospitality, befriending, and forgiving. Jesus shows us best what the invisible God is like - he has been described as 'God's body language' which is evident across differences of religion, race, nationality, gender and economic or social status. To encounter Jesus is to be invited into 'life in all its fullness'.

Among issues especially relevant to dignity in education are safeguarding, prevention of bullying, special educational needs and disabilities.



Some discussion questions for staff and/or governors:

- * To what extent do you treat your pupils with dignity when teaching them?
- * Is dignity an essential starting point for true learning to occur?
- * What does it mean to experience dignity when things go wrong?
- * Do you really give pupils a fresh start? If so, what does this look like in reality?
- * What kind of character did Jesus display through the gospels and how do we draw this out in our approaches to collective worship?
- * What role does diversity and inclusion have in your approach to teaching and learning?
- * How does dignity and respect inform your approach to behaviour management, rewards and sanction?
- * Does your safeguarding policy convey a sense of 'love and compassion'?

Valuing All God's Children

Have your staff and governors looked at this document? It is mentioned in the SIAMS schedule and so you need to! SIAMS explores 'How well does your school's Christian vision and associated values uphold dignity and value all God's Children, ensuring through its policy and practice the protection of all members of the school community' and directs schools to Valuing All God's Children. In the foreword of the document Archbishop Justin writes 'This guidance helps schools to offer the Christian message of love, joy and the celebration of our humanity without exception or exclusion.'



Modern Day Slavery the Greatest Loss of Dignity?

24 of our schools were represented at the pupil conference we held on this issue with those pupils becoming school ambassadors and tasked with spreading the message back in their school community. Across the UK it is thought that up to 136,000 people are trapped in forced labour or trafficked and exploited for sex. How aware is your school of this issue? Where could you turn to for support in exploring this with primary aged pupils? 'Just Enough' have resources and personnel to help with this. In the meantime here is a

JUST ENOUGH GROUP

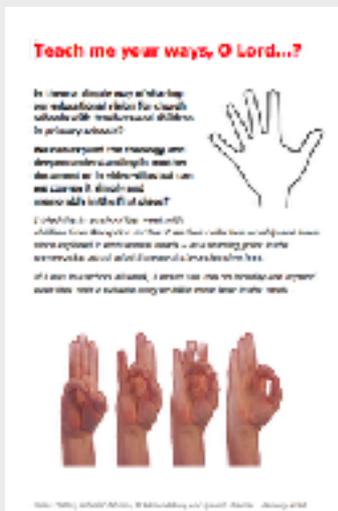
An inspirational idea from Southend-on-Sea where a group of charities, police, faith groups and statutory services are working together. A local artist teamed up with users of a learning disability charity to create a mural titled 'Writing's on the Wall -the evils of slavery for all to see'. You may not be able to do a town based mural but you could hold an art competition - maybe involve both pupils, your local church and your local community?



Idea for Collective Worship

<https://derby.anglican.org/education/schools/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/> has a wonderful way of exploring the Church of England's Vision for Education with pupils in collective worship, using the fingers of one hand. The section which looks at dignity (which is represented by the little finger) has these moving words 'God is good. He loves each one of us. We are special and important to him. However small we are on the outside, or however small we feel on the inside, God knows and notices us...We can hold our heads up with dignity - God has made each of us for a purpose in the world and in our school'.

Do explore the whole set of ideas!



Too Small to Make a Difference?

Earlier this year many of us were inspired with the visionary and brave example of a young person from Sweden. Greta Thunberg spoke on an international stage despite her age and disability. Simon Key has crowdfunded the idea of getting 10 copies of the book into a 100 schools as he says 'Yes, it's about climate change. But it's also about empowering and inspiring young people to do something.' If you'd like your school to be considered to receive copies, send an email to gretaforschools@gmail.com with the name of the school, its address and a contact name. If you want to contribute to the crowd fund then go to <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/greta-thunbergs-book-of-speeches-to-100-schools>



Thank your Vicar Week 16th-23rd October

This is an opportunity for celebrating and showing gratitude and respect for your local clergy. It is organised by St Luke's Healthcare for the Clergy, a charity which cares for the health and well-being of Anglican clergy. Many schools in Derby diocese have taken part in this over the last couple of years



from simply writing thank you letters and cards to holding a special collective worship through to a parish and school shared afternoon tea party. You can download free resources at <https://www.stlukesforclergy.org.uk/thank-your-vicar-week/your-school-and-thank-your-vicar-week/> from 8th September, with ideas for Thank Your Vicar Week celebrations. School resources have been devised to complement the RE curriculum and support collective worship.

Embracing and Celebrating Diversity

There will be more ideas about this shared in next term's mailing but here are a few things you could think about:

- * Ask the Open Centre to come into school to help pupils explore some key religious festivals
- * Hold a World Religion Day in school with different classes challenged to turn their classroom into a model of a mosque, gurdwara, synagogue, mandir or church. Ask them to devise a guided educational tour for other classes making it as interactive and experiential as possible.



We are very grateful to Glenda Gibson for the use of her spiritual tree picture. For more information visit www.1000001.com

* Your school may serve a community which does not seem very diverse but there is one key aspect which is diverse and that's the ages of the community members! Growing Together is a project based on research carried out by Liz Mills. She was keen to develop an inter-generational community which values and understands the spiritual needs and resources within our communities of people in all stages of their lives. There is a lot of material to support schools to build good inter-cultural relationships but far less about effective two-way inter-generational connections. Liz

developed challenging RE through creative links with her school's inter-generational local community. More on this next term but hopefully this is enough for you to explore your own ideas!