

OUR CHRISTIAN ETHOS



CHELSEA
ACADEMY

Anchored in Christ

Anchored in Christ: Our Christian Ethos and Academy Values

Our Christian Ethos and Values underpin everything we do at Chelsea Academy. We are sponsored by the Church of England and so central to our learning community are the principles and values that are at the heart of the Christian faith. Central to this vision is a belief in a loving God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who creates and sustains the Universe and whose loving purposes are extended to all of humanity and creation. We see your child as being created in the image of God and therefore being of unique value and meaning. We see your child's education and their growth as a *whole* person – spiritually, morally, intellectually, socially and physically – flowing out of such an understanding.

We are fully inclusive and therefore welcome everyone, from all different backgrounds, who want an education informed by Christian values and beliefs. Although the Christian approach to living and learning is naturally prominent at the Academy, your child will develop proper regard for other faiths and belief systems, by learning about them and by exploring and debating faith, beliefs and values. Much of this will be explored in a dynamic Religious Education and Collective Worship programme (Assemblies, Coaching Time and Services) where your child will be stimulated and challenged to think deeply and widely.



A Collective Worship Assembly for two of our Houses

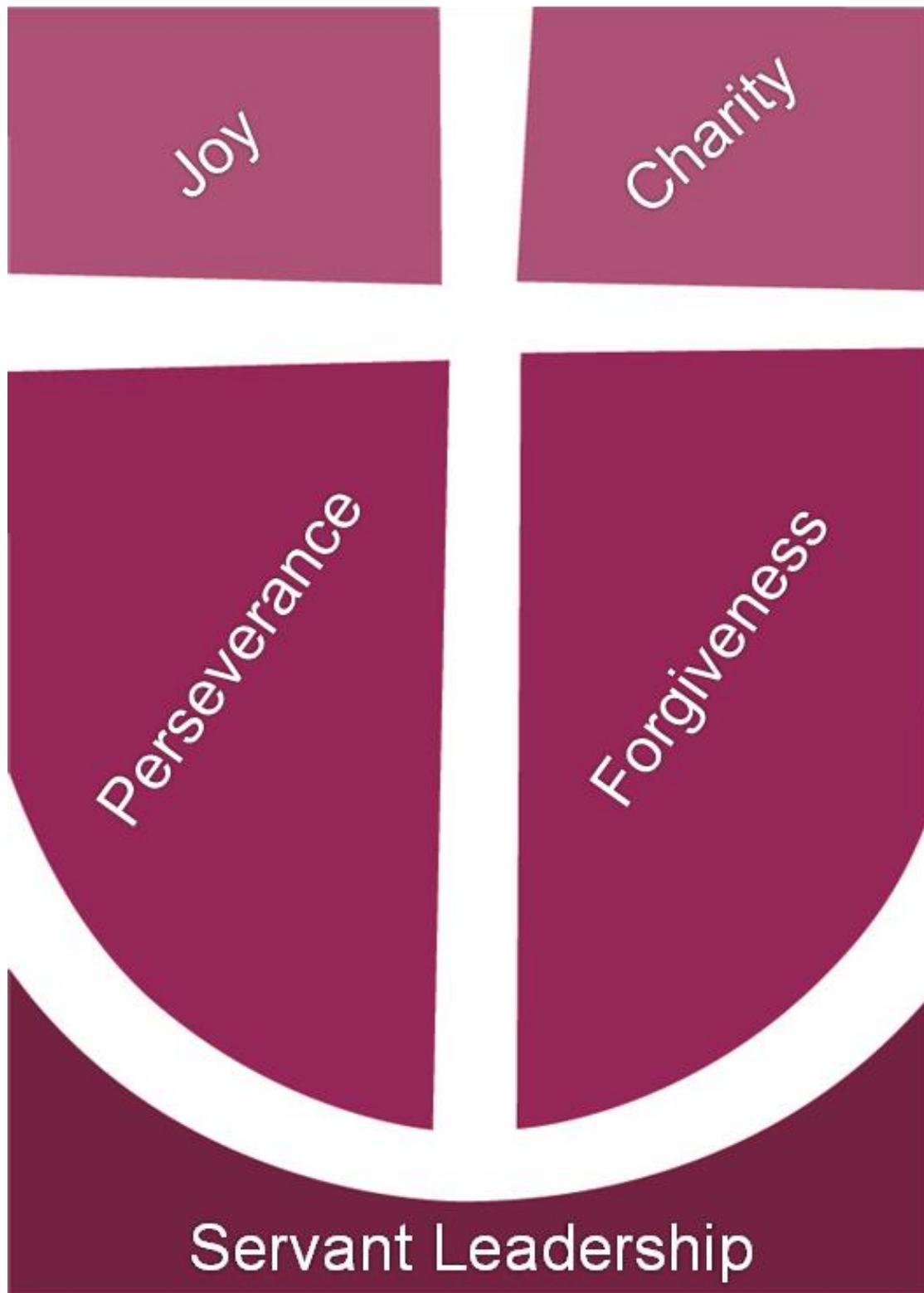


The Rt. Revd Paul Williams, Bishop of Kensington, leading a session with our Academy students



Students leading singing during Collective Worship

Grounded, Firm and Deep:
Our Christian Values at Chelsea Academy
that are *Anchored in Christ*



Definitions of our Christian Values

We know that Christ is the personification of agape love and, meditating on who he was, the well-known 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 passage powerfully comes to mind. Substituting the word 'love' for Jesus, the scripture is paraphrased below:

The character of Christ (paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)	Identified Christian Values	What does this mean for Chelsea Academy learning community?
<p>Jesus was patient, he was kind, He was not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude, He did not insist on getting his own way, He did not disrespect others, He was not irritable or resentful, He kept no record of wrongs, He did not celebrate wrongdoing but celebrated the truth. He always protected, always trusted God, always looked for the best, never looked back and never gave up in achieving his goal.</p>	<p>Forgiveness</p>	<p>Students and staff will 'wipe the slate clean' and show mercy to each other when they have been wronged, even when they don't deserve it, because of the unfailing and undeserved mercy and grace that God always shows us.</p>
	<p>Joy</p>	<p>Students and staff enjoy life at the Academy with celebration and great delight as a result of valuing the people and things around them.</p>
	<p>Perseverance</p>	<p>Students and staff never give up on learning and teaching in the face of hardship and adversity, grounded in the belief that God's love, mercy and faithfulness is always there to support them.</p>
	<p>Charity</p>	<p>Students and staff are generous, hospitable, gentle and pleasant to all; always ready to help and offer service, willing to 'go the extra mile' for someone else's benefit, treating all equally with tolerance and respect.</p>
	<p>Servant Leadership</p>	<p>Students and staff will co-construct in learning and teaching and will consistently lead by example, like Christ, showing self-discipline, humility, honesty and integrity in all tasks and for all people. They will lead, putting the needs of others first, helping others to develop and perform as highly and effectively as possible.</p>

The following scripture verses exemplify each part of our strapline:

Work Hard

'Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters' (Colossians 3:23)

Be Nice

'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.' (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

No Excuses

'No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.' (Romans 8:37)

As students part of the Chelsea Academy community, the following foundational Christian principles need your child's full attention and commitment:

- Everyone, whether student or staff, is created in the image of God and therefore of unique value and meaning;
- Because we are all part of an orderly and purposeful creation, our own lives are to be lived with purpose and a sense of service; the ultimate calling for all human beings is to love God and our neighbours as ourselves;
- Diversity is fundamental to the natural world and human society and will be embraced and welcomed by the Academy;
- The development of character – the spiritual and moral aspect of the person – is every bit as important as the development of mind and the gaining of qualifications;
- Human beings hold the earth in trust and must exploit the opportunities presented by science and technology with due regard for the natural world.
- Personally and corporately, the Academy will encourage creativity, sustainability, respect for the natural world and an understanding of our responsibilities as world citizens.

These principles and beliefs are embedded in the life of our Academy. They will help your son or daughter on their journey into adulthood, to become capable of principled leadership, constructive team membership, to be successful in the world of work and to contribute to the life and wellbeing of the communities in which they live.

Worship

Worship is an integral part of the life of the Chelsea Academy. The daily act of worship is approached creatively and, harnessing technology where appropriate, inclusively offers opportunities for giving praise and honour to God in a variety of groups and ways.

Students and staff are encouraged to lead, contribute to and participate in worship. The wider community is also encouraged to act in partnership as a resource for worship with efforts being made to build upon developing relationships with clergy and Christian youth organisations, for example.

Chelsea Academy aims to provide a range of worship experiences, reflecting the breadth and diversity of the Anglican tradition in the chapel, local churches and as a community of staff.

Themes for each week have been identified, which form the focus for assemblies and collective worship.

Chelsea Academy aims to allow its members time and space to explore their own beliefs, to reflect and consider spiritual and moral values and make their own responses. It also recognises those concepts, principals and behaviours that characterise the highest examples and achievement of the human spirit as worthy of celebration.

Staffing and relationships

Strong Christian leadership will provide a clear sense of direction for the Academy and maintain a vision of a thriving school, including a care for the physical, spiritual and mental well-being of all who live and work in the Academy.

Staff have been appointed to the Academy who have demonstrated a commitment and ability to contribute to an innovative and successful school. Staff will also be expected to support and respect the Christian values on which the Academy is based in their dealings with students and parents, their relationships with colleagues and the way they conduct themselves.

The Academy building includes a prayer room (Chapel). The Academy Chaplain has responsibility for the spiritual and pastoral development of the Academy community. Not only does the Chaplain help to lead worship within the Academy but they also work closely with such colleagues as the SEN team, inclusion, counselling and attendance officers in meeting the needs of the whole child. Their role includes:

- Supporting all students pastorally (spiritually and emotionally), regardless of background or faith; mentoring
- Directing / co-ordinating Collective Worship (Assemblies, Coaching Time, Church Services)
- Leading staff and student prayer/worship groups (before and after-school) and directing use of the Academy Chapel
- Facilitating a 'Chaplain Clinic': a drop in for parents and students for one-to-one talks, prayers and wider discussions
- Promoting our Christian Ethos with charity initiatives and a plethora of Whole Academy activities

You can contact him at any time on tim.richards@chelsea-academy.org

This holistic approach is central to the further development of rich home/Academy partnerships and the vibrant community links that are developing.

SIAS (Section 48 inspection report)

In July 2012, the Academy underwent its first SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) inspection. The Academy was judged to be outstanding overall, with judgements for the subsections of the SIAS inspection framework as follows:

- How distinctive and effective is the school as a Church school? **Outstanding**
- How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners? **Outstanding**
- What is the impact of collective worship on the school community? **Good**
- How effective is the religious education? **Outstanding**
- How effective are the leadership and management of the school, as a church school? **Outstanding**