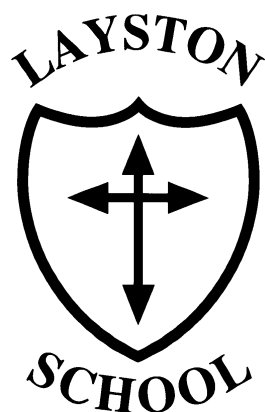


*Layston Church of England
First School*



A celebration of Christian Values

*A Celebration of Christian Values
for All at Layston*

Our values

We rotate our Christian values on a two-year cycle.

	<i>Year A</i>	<i>Year B</i>
<i>Autumn 1</i>	Community	Creation & stewardship
<i>Autumn 2</i>	Friendship	Peace & justice
<i>Spring 1</i>	Courage & resilience	Wisdom
<i>Spring 2</i>	Thankfulness	Reverence
<i>Summer 1</i>	Love & compassion	Humility & forgiveness
<i>Summer 2</i>	Trust	Hope

We introduce the new value at the beginning of half term, during Monday collective worship.

We reinforce the value through our other collective worship sessions as well as within class and around school.

We award children 'Values Awards' for demonstrating a particular value.

<i>Monday</i>	Singing collective worship with Music lead and head teacher.
<i>Tuesday</i>	Visit from reverend to reinforce value and relate it to the Bible and Christian practices.
<i>Wednesday</i>	Key Stage collective worship in class discussing value and learning from the week.
<i>Thursday</i>	Deputy head leads a mental health and well-being collective worship linking to the value and a feeling word to develop emotional literacy.
<i>Friday</i>	Head teacher leads Celebration collective worship to give Values Awards, Stars of the Week, Diner and Buddy of the week and attendance awards.

Community (Koinonía)

At Layston, we pride ourselves on our welcoming, inclusive and nurturing community. Our open door policy enables us to connect and build healthy partnerships to ensure the children thrive, feel safe and happy, and learn.



Connecting with each other respectfully and kindly is our starting point. We teach the children how to build and maintain healthy relationships through modelling this behaviour ourselves as well as through our PSHRE and Forest School curriculums, personal development opportunities and therapeutic responses to behaviour.



We encourage partnership with parents and grandparents. We openly welcome volunteers after safeguarding checks to support with reading, cooking, or Forest School sessions. We also invite parents in for open mornings or afternoons.

Our Eco Warriors support with initiatives such as litter picking and recycling to support the local and wider community.

Our choir visits the Layston Grove Care Home to entertain the residents with carols at Christmas.



Children are included in the Buntingford Service of Remembrance at St Peters in November where the school representatives lay a wreath at the local memorial.

St Peter's church on Market Hill in Buntingford is our local church and we are proud of our strong links with them. The Reverends Kirsty and Norman are weekly visitors to our school, delivering Collective Worship on Tuesdays. We also endeavour to visit the church twice a term to celebrate Harvest, Nativity, Christingle, Easter, and our Y4 Leavers' Service (July), inviting parents and governors to join us.

Friendship



Learning how to build and maintain healthy relationships is key to our success and happiness throughout our lives. We explore the Five Ways to Well-being to support children understand how to maintain their physical and mental health and friendships and social connection are an integral part of this. Our PSHRE curriculum also supports friendship.

Layston is nurturing and inclusive and we provide a range of opportunities for children to develop strong friendships through our Forest School team building experiences, paired learning opportunities, celebrating Friendship Week (Anti-bullying Week in November) and our buddy systems to name a few.



We value pupil voice, encouraging pupils to listen to each other with curiosity and respect. We hold Talk Circles termly to discuss key areas of school life and each year begins with a circle to discuss friendship, behaviour and safeguarding

so that everyone understands how to be a good friend.

Our Y4 children train as 'Buddies' to support the rest of the school at break and lunch times. They complete a 45 minute training session with the deputy head identifying their roles and responsibilities and how to support others. Y4 Buddies are volunteers, however, we have a very high take up and the children are extremely keen. They work on a rota to support the younger children in the dining room at lunch with cutlery, water and signing children in for dinner. During break and lunch, Buddies are available on the playground in their high visibility jackets and caps to help others, ensuring everyone has someone to play with, supervising simple games and referring to adult help if it is needed (e.g. first aid or disagreements), through our numerous MSAs (midday supervisory assistants), play leader or sports coach.



Courage & resilience

Our weekly Forest School sessions allow all children to develop their courage and resilience, with opportunities to climb trees, build dens, light fires safely and use a range of simple tools. The children work together with a qualified Forest School Lead as well as other adults building trust, friendship, resilience and courage.



Each class has an afternoon allocated to Forest School and we go out in all weathers. The children enjoy their wintery sessions as much as their summer ones, with warm waterproof clothing, hot drinks and plenty to explore.



The children learn so much about themselves and supporting each other in these sessions, whether it be navigating the stick pile

together and retrieving a friend's stuck wellie, or swinging a friend in the hammock.



This resilience, courage and teamwork is transferred into the classroom as the children become confident and develop a 'growth mindset', where mistakes and failures are seen as valuable parts of learning and nothing to be ashamed of.

Thankfulness

At Layston, we express our thankfulness and gratitude daily through collective worship, prayer, using reflection areas and through our interactions with each other. We expect good manners at all times and staff model this for children to learn through their interactions with us. We are grateful for the support we receive from each other to help us grow and thrive.



We also express gratitude for our world by caring for it and understanding the benefits of 'green therapy' and connection with nature. Our Eco Warriors are committed to helping the school community to nurture and preserve our environment for future generations.





Our local incumbent, Reverend Kirsty, helps our Worship Group create a harvest sheaf to express our thankfulness for the harvest and food that the world provides for us. We collect non-perishable food items for our Harvest collection that we donate to the local Buntingford food bank each year.

We are thankful for our school community and the support we give and receive. We show this through Values Awards, Stars of the Week, Diner of the Week and Buddy of the Week awards as well as praise and positive feedback throughout the school day.



Love (agape) & compassion

Loving, compassionate relationships are at the heart of all our interactions. When children feel safe, they are able to thrive and grow.



We have a culture of nurture and support at Layston. We view all our interactions therapeutically and see all behaviour as communication. We train our staff in 'Therapeutic Thinking', the local authority's chosen training strategy for responding to incidents of anti-social behaviour.

When dealing with incidents of anti-social behaviour, no matter how small or big, our first job is to de-escalate and calm all involved. Staff find out what has happened and what the triggers were for the behaviour. We then use our behaviour comic strip to talk through what happened with the child.

We believe that we must teach pro-social behaviour explicitly to children.

We ask the child to identify what happened when things go wrong, as this encourages them to be honest about what they did.

Then we explore the feelings and thoughts that led to their behaviour so that they begin to develop self-awareness. They can reflect on feelings, thoughts, and the impact on their behaviour choices.



We encourage the child to reflect on the consequence of their behaviour so that they can take responsibility for what happened.

They can then reflect on restoration and making amends. Hopefully, this leads to changed behaviours and increased self-esteem. No child behaves better by being made to feel worse.

Trust



We build trust at Layston through strong nurturing relationships. Our children learn what it is to feel safe and to help others to feel safe.



Forest School provides excellent opportunities for children to build trust in themselves, their peers and adults in school through managed risk taking. Pupils enjoy helping and encouraging each other whether it is swinging in the hammock, navigating the brush pile or climbing trees with adult supervision.

We teach children we trust them and to trust themselves by giving them additional responsibilities around school such as

Y4 Buddies and organising the music for Collective Worship to Helping Hands in YR. We nurture children as part of God's creation, to be trusted and encouraged to shine their light.

We encourage trust with our parents also, acknowledging the trust that parents place in us by sending their child to Layston. We are committed to doing our very best to support your child's development and learning and strive to work in partnership with parents to achieve this.

Effective communication enables trust to build. At Layston, we are constantly reviewing and adapting our communication with parents to ensure that we foster trust. We have daily chats with parents on the playground, with the head and deputy on the playground at drop off and pick up. We have weekly letters from the head teacher and half-termly newsletters. YR parents benefit from Tapestry, an online learning journal, to support transition into school and share their child's learning journey. We host opportunities to 'Meet the Teacher' in September, 'Parent Chats' and 'Open Mornings/Afternoons' throughout the year as well as priding ourselves on our open door culture.

We want to work with our families and for them to trust us.

Creation & Stewardship



An appreciation for, and connection with, nature is essential for the future of our planet. Children enjoy planting food in our allotment. We share this food with the school kitchen or cook it in Forest School on the fire.



We give the children responsibilities to help maintain our Wild Wood environment and over the years, they have built 'beetle banks' and 'bug hotels', bird feeders, hedgehog nests and food stations for the local wildlife.

We see stewardship as an integral part of our responsibility as Christians. Our Eco Warriors are extremely active and have been awarded the Green Flag.

The school has a sustainability plan in place. Please see the school website for further information on this.



Peace & Justice

Staff at Layston teach children that in order to have fairness and order we need rules, and that with rights come responsibilities. We build our understanding of behaviour around The Six Principles of Nurture.



The school has Three Golden Rules:

- 1) I am ready to learn and allow others learn.
- 2) I am thoughtful, kind and polite to everyone.
- 3) I look after our school and everything in it.

All behaviour is communication.

It is our job as adults to work out what the behaviour is telling us and ...to share our calm, not join their chaos." (L. R. Knost)



There are calm spaces around the school, both in class and outside, for quiet reflection and emotional regulation. Pupils know that they can take themselves to these places if they need peace and quiet. We train as adults to hold space for pupils and not overwhelm them when they are dysregulated.

Once pupils find peace and calm we are able to respond therapeutically to any difficulties and work through them. We are open with our pupils about consequences to anti-social behaviours and strive to be fair and just. Consequences relate to the difficult behaviours so that the pupil understands the relevance of it and explores how to change their behaviour in the future.



Wisdom

Wisdom is a complex concept for us all and we talk to the children about wisdom being different from academic success. Wisdom is making the right choices, even when it is hard. Wisdom is kindness and thoughtfulness, compassion and consideration. "A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered." Proverbs 17:27



We teach children to listen to others and truly take on board what others are saying. We deliver this through our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural curriculum as well as the PSHRE curriculum.

Giving pupils the opportunity to make mistakes without blame, question and change their minds, and reflect on their thoughts, feelings and behaviours all contribute towards the development of wisdom.

Practising Shinrin Yoku or 'forest bathing'.



We promote reflection areas around the school, both inside and out, to support mindfulness and consideration.



Reverence

Daily collective worship is an integral part of supporting children develop reverence for our world and God, whatever their understanding of divinity may be.



We start each Collective Worship with the words, "We light this candle to help us remember that Jesus is the light of the world."

Forest School sessions also provide opportunities to develop reverence and a sense of awe and wonder around our natural world. We emphasise our responsibility to look after it for future generations.



Snowflakes, bird foot prints in the snow, a dandelion seed head, a worm, a new bud in spring all bring wonder to children and adults alike.



At Easter time, we create a tableau to represent Jesus' last days on Earth. The children are able to follow this through sharing food as Jesus did during the Last Supper, praying as Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane, and making crosses from sticks to show reverence.



Humility & forgiveness

We have grouped humility and forgiveness together because it takes humility to accept our mistakes and that making mistakes is part of being human. In order to forgive others their mistakes, we must first learn to accept our own mistakes and forgive ourselves. "To err is human, to forgive, divine..." (Alexander Pope).



In Collective Worship, we focus on what it feels like when we have made a mistake, and the uncomfortable feelings that arise. This develops emotional literacy. We explore mistakes as a part of learning and growing and how we all feel uncomfortable, but that it is ok. We then learn how to say sorry and how to forgive others and ourselves.

We reinforce this in our Therapeutic Thinking training and our therapeutic responses to anti-social behaviour. As Jesus said, "If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone..." John 8:7.



Nordic weaving in Forest School

All our interactions are part of the journey from child to adult, learning not to harbour shame and to forgive others are essential elements of developing and maintaining healthy trusting relationships.

Too often we forget that discipline really means to *teach*, not to punish. A disciple is a student, not a recipient of behavioral consequences.

- Dr. Dan Siegel, *The Whole-Brain Child*

Hope

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord.
"Plans to prosper you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



We prepare pupils for our world's uncertain future. With these Christian values embedded and a sense of resilience and a 'can-do' growth mindset, we hope that our children leave us optimistic and full of hope for their futures. We aim for them to feel empowered to be global citizens, able to facilitate change, stand up for what is right and bring creative solutions to problem solving. To know that as part of a community and within healthy trusting relationships they can achieve and flourish.



Our bee orchids in the Wild Wood meadow.