

**Our vision statement of 'An inspiring education centred on friends, faith and lifelong learning' is the 'coat hanger' on which our values hang; the target towards which we are aiming.**



### **Friends**

Relationships are at the very heart of the big story of the bible. Relationships between people and God, as well as people with people. It is God's clear intention from the very beginning of the bible that he desires relationships with people even when we make mistakes. We read, *'It is not good for man to be alone,'* on the opening pages of the Genesis account. He actively pursues people in order to meet them where they are at and rebuild relationship where it has become damaged. This was most dramatically seen in the incarnation as Jesus Christ came to dwell amongst us, making a bridge between all mankind and God, showing us what God is like. As we pray in the Lord's prayer, *'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...,'* God brings about the opportunity for humanity to flourish in a new way of living alongside each other. This is how we live at Meriden CE Primary School. In the challenges of relationships, we seek to bring reconciliation always leaving space for forgiveness and God's healing work.

Furthermore, we strive to promote, healthy, balanced and respectful relationships in all that we do between all members of our school community. It is within a community that values all God's children, that the values of compassion, kindness and forgiveness can be fully played out as children and adults discover what it means to be dressed in the 'Creator's' wardrobe.

### **Faith**

God is a creative God! And it is us - human beings – that were the pinnacle of his creation! In 1811, church schools were initiated by Joshua Watson and were inspired by a belief that all children have been made by God in his likeness and therefore *all* children are *worth* educating fully, irrespective of class, gender or ethnicity. It is the 'whole' child that is worth educating whether that be academically, physically, emotionally or spiritually. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to, *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'* (Matthew 22:37 ERV)

At Meriden CE Primary School we take a broad view of education in that we are encouraging the development of the *whole* child. The school has a common language around spirituality which is shared by all. A child's spiritual development is of great importance and is threaded through the whole curriculum alongside their social, moral and cultural development. We appreciate that children and adults can grow spiritually and therefore plan in opportunities across the curriculum for children raise and explore questions that consider their place in the world, who they are becoming and the reason they are here.

### **Lifelong learning**

Throughout Jesus's life, he modelled growth and intentionally developed to become everything that God the Father called him to be. Luke 2:52 MSG records, *'...And Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and people.'* In his formative years, Jesus prepared himself for his life ahead. For Christians, salvation is something to be worked at and worked out (Philippians 2:12) not simply something they are born into or a one-off commitment.

At Meriden CE Primary School it is through a firmly rooted set of values that we endeavour to fully prepare children for the life ahead of them. It is in learning to get 'fully dressed' that we encourage these behaviours to move from being awkward and difficult, like learning to tie a tie, to becoming more natural and second-nature. Many of the jobs that children leaving school will do may not be created yet so focusing upon the development of character in pupils goes hand in hand with a vibrant, engaging and varied curriculum that lays the foundation for all that lies ahead.