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17th October 2016

RE: CHESTERTON SCHOOL VALUES

Dear parents/guardians and pupils,

As you will be aware from the competition at the end of last academic year, the school has been reviewing our whole school values, with the aim of adding a sixth value. There was a huge response to the competition to suggest Christian values that reflect our ethos at Chesterton, with entries from children across the school. The pupils had clearly given their entries a lot of time and thought and their explanations were very well-explained and persuasive.

As Christian Values play a fundamentally important role in the life of a Church Of England school, we have been keen to make an informed decision. Our values cannot just be words on the website or on a display; they have to be intrinsic to the life of Chesterton School, reflect the community that we serve and the character of the pupils in our care. Therefore, we have involved advisers from the Diocese, governors, staff and our Collective Worship Pupil Council to decide the best way forward.

To give some context, the advice regarding values has changed somewhat in recent years and the focus is now clearly that values have to be clearly grounded in the Christian faith, rather than school values than can be linked to Christianity. This does not mean that these values are exclusive to Christianity or that they are not applicable to all the pupils at the school, be they of another faith or no faith. This change of emphasis led us to decide review all of our existing values and make the decision to retain three (**Compassion, Integrity and Respect**), replace two (Self-Belief and Creativity) and choose one addition. This, of course, does not mean that self-belief and creativity are no longer important to us, or that they won't be fostered or encouraged in school. We are also obliged to bear in mind that teaching the 'British Values' of Democracy, Rule Of Law, Tolerance, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect is now a statutory requirement for schools.

This meant we were in need of three new values from our competition entries. It was a very difficult choice, but we are very happy with the result. Many entries linked closely to our existing values and, although not chosen, are likely to feature in our collective worship themes throughout the year. These were all fantastic suggestions and ones that we hope that our pupils show throughout their lives at school and at home.

Here are some examples:

Entries we felt linked well to **Compassion**: Rory Gauld – Hospitality; Harry Leach – Empathy; Bobbie Brelsford – Kindness; Anabelle Meek – Friendship.

Entries we felt linked well to **Respect**: Kate Stephenson – Equality; Finn Gauld – Democracy; Emily Martin – Diversity; Beccy Ellacott & Poppy Grenfell – Responsibility, Phoebe Hutt – Understanding.

Entries we felt linked well to **Integrity**: Lewis Smith & Jack Happell– Honesty; Isla Simpson – Trust;

Our final three values that we decided to choose are:

Humility:

Kirsty Ellacott (Oak) “**Humility** is when I don’t brag or show off”.

Chris Meek (Apple) “Jesus showed **humility** even though he was a leader”

Resilience:

There were a number of entries that combined to lead us to choose this value. We felt **resilience** encapsulated all of these ideas, and also incorporated our previous value of self-belief.

Jessie Ward (Apple) suggested Determination. “We need determination to get over any hurdles and face any struggles in our lives”.

Oliver Rossiter (Ash) suggested Working Hard/Perseverance. “It means you are trying your best even when you find things difficult.”

Gemma Blake (Oak) suggested Endurance. “It is important to not give up, even when something is difficult.”

Benjamin Horseman (Oak) suggested Tenacity. “Tenacity is shown by someone who just won’t quit and keeps trying until they reach their goal.”

Generosity:

Toby Hutt (Ash) “You can show **generosity** to others in lots of ways. You can be generous with your time, love, skills, thoughts, money and knowledge. Jesus was generous with all of these.”

Jack Martin (Apple) suggested helpfulness “You should be helpful to everyone around you.” and we felt that this linked well to being generous with your time, skills and knowledge.

Please see the school website ‘Values’ page for more details of how our values impact on the life of the school. [Chesterton School Values](#)

The Collective Worship Council will be instrumental in deciding how we ensure that our values play an active part in school life. Look out for further information in the coming months and please discuss the values with your children at home as we will be doing in school – especially as some of the terminology will need some explanation for younger children!

Many thanks again for all of the entries.

Yours sincerely,

Mr I Horner (Headteacher), Miss E Jones (Collective Worship Co-ordinator)
and the Collective Worship Pupil Council