

St James CE Primary School Values



FORGIVENESS



We forgive because we are forgiven.

- Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. *Ephesians 4:32*
- Surely, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed He is the most Forgiving, the Merciful. *Quran 39:53*
- The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. *Gandhi*
- To err is human; to forgive, divine. *Alexander Pope*

Forgiveness is an important value to us. Forgiving one another, as Jesus taught us by his example, is the message we try to follow at St. James'. Everyone makes mistakes, it's part of being human. Sometimes our mistakes hurt someone else, we can also hurt ourselves. When this happens we need to forgive, to accept an apology that is really meant. When we forgive we are able to move forward and make a fresh start.

What makes forgiveness a distinctively Christian value? Because God forgives us. Christian forgiveness is based on God's unconditional love for us, and despite the mistakes we make and the selfish attitudes we have, God still forgives us.

At St James' we develop our value of forgiveness through: modelling it to one another; discussing how we can forgive when things go wrong; teaching what sincere apologies mean; having a fresh start after a bad day; celebrating when a child forgives and moves on; and being empathetic to one another.

At school we take every opportunity to teach children this value by:

- forgiving someone if they say or do something we don't like.
- Trying not to hold grudges.
- Resolving issues restoratively.
- Helping others to forgive if they are finding it hard.
- Giving everyone a fresh start as you would like for yourself.
- Forgiving yourself if you make a mistake and offer an apology.

This value is reflected in our curriculum by:

- Forgiving ourselves when we make mistakes and know that a mistake is an opportunity to learn.
- Knowing that if we still don't understand, even though we have tried hard and listened, we can forgive ourselves and ask for help.
- Valuing all mistakes as opportunities to develop deeper understanding.