



Elsecar Holy Trinity Primary Academy Theological Rationale

The three key Christian teachings that inspire our vision for our school are...

- Compassion
- Aspiration
- Respect



Compassion

“Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate” (Luke 6:36).

Jesus taught us to reflect the compassion and love of God in the way we are with one another. At Elsecar we work with our children in a spirit of compassion, based on this teaching. We start from the principle that:

“The God of wisdom, love, compassion and peace, in whose image we are created, is utterly relational

and see the way we run school, speak to children, teach, and care and approach policy development as all needing to be rooted in this basic belief as to how we should be as God’s children. We share the Church of England vision that:

“The ultimate worth of each person is grounded in being created in the image of God and in God’s love and compassion for each.”

To do this we look to the example of Jesus and explicitly teach and apply the stories of his love in action. We use the stories of healing and caring¹ as examples. We also approach all children with positive regard and see in this a reflection of the way Jesus approached all people. We observe that Jesus treated different people in ways that were right for them, challenging some, calling others and sending some to do his work. In a similar way we believe in treating children in a way that is right for them in their moment and context. This may vary according to a child's particular need and circumstances.

Our approach to behavior and discipline translates compassion into forgiveness, in which children are taught that they can always make a fresh start. We are proud of, and continue to nurture, an environment in which there is genuine love and care



Aspiration

In Colossians Paul speaks of us being constantly renewed:

"Do not lie to one another, for you have put off the old self with its habits and have put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its Creator, is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself."

Col 3:9-10

In 1 John the writer speaks of God's children becoming the people they are meant to be:

"Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed."

1Jn 3:2a

As a school we are inspired by this idea of people becoming the people they will be and this aspiration is a key driver of our educational approach.

We seek and nurture the flourishing of children and adults within our school community.

Aspiration also involves us in widening the horizons of our children and giving them a sense of wonder about the world, the person they could become and the aspiration they can hold.

A key component of this is the recognition of the school that aspiration of each individual is something that will flourish to fruition in a school community.

“One’s own fulfilment cannot be separated from that of other people or from the flourishing of families, groups, communities, institutions, nations, and the whole of creation, so that hope and aspiration are social as well as individual, but also being realistic about how much can and does go wrong.”



Respect and Responsibility

“Human dignity, the ultimate worth of each person, is central to good education. The basic principle of respect for the value of each person involves continual discernment, deliberation and action”²

At Elsecar we create a community of respect. This involves the positive promotion of positive attitudes and regard for one another and also includes the conscious tackling of any form of discrimination.

Our guide in this is Jesus and his injunction to ***“Do to others as you would have them do to you (Luke 6:31).”***

Respect and responsibility go hand in hand and as a school we want our children to be courageous advocates for change, justice and for a better world. Our School Council and work on pupil voice are rooted in this, but we also promote the importance of individual and personal kindness, through our Kindness award.

At Elsecar, this is an intelligent kindness. We use PHSE and debate to enable children to explore ethical choices and consider what constitutes kindness and fairness in different situations. Within our work on respect and responsibility we emphasise the value of honesty, and apply Jesus approach³ as a means of enabling good behavior.

All the above spring from the foundational work we do as a school with our [parish church. We use the building as a place wherein our community gathers and learns to respect and care for one another. We also believe e our church enables a sense of wonder and aspiration and it is in this context that we continually return to the teachings about the love of God and way of Christ Jesus.
