

# Mary Dean's CofE Primary School and Nursery

'A school family, learning for life in all its fulness.'

We are a nurturing family, growing together for a flourishing future.

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. – John 10:10

Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Courage, Truthfulness, Respect, Friendship

First Federation Trust values 'Aspire, Flourish, Achieve'.

In an attempt to help those less fortunate than herself to flourish, an aspirational Mary Dean established the first school in Tamerton Foliot over 300 years ago steeped in the teachings of Jesus. It has been evolving ever since. Its origins lay with the teaching of 20 poor boys from the village to perform arithmetic, to read and to understand scripture. Two schools later, we now teach and nurture over 300 children from the wider Plymouth area. Mary Dean's School continues to strive for ways to support children and families in an ever-changing world aided by our Christian values and teachings from the bible.

John 10:10 teaches us that Jesus came so that we can live with abundance and Mary Dean's school aims to achieve this fulness through the children, staff and community becoming integral parts of a wider family.

**Family** – in the bible, family relationships are portrayed as a gift from God which is meant to bring joy and build strong communities. It is with this in mind that Mary Dean's School nurtures family values in all that it does.

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

We aim to draw in the wider community, including our parish church, St Mary's so that our extended school family can be a source of blessing, love, support, and strength for our students, present and past. Our school also tries to give back to the community. We have a bike track which is open for village use and we support community events. We provide our family ethos by valuing respect and truthfulness, providing different learning opportunities that develop the whole child: mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

We think of our family values as:

1 Peter 4:8 reminds us, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

We encourage the children to understand that by cherishing others through friendship, we help them to become the best that they can be.

**Growing together** – Our village is rich in history dating back to the Domesday Book. The Copleston Oak, which is situated near to St Mary's church, is thought to be from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and has needed strong roots to grow strong. We believe that our Christian values of: Friendship, Forgiveness, Thankfulness, Respect, Courage and Truthfulness are the roots that our school family needs to grow strong for today and the future. Our curriculum drivers allow for learning that is adaptable to suit the needs of all.

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. Matthew 18:12-13

**Flourishing** – As one of our Trusts values, we believe that we accomplish far more together than we can ever accomplish alone. We are inclusive and focussed on every individual: child, carer, and member of staff, living by our embedded Christian values.

Psalm 92.12 states 'The righteous will flourish like a (palm) tree'.

Therefore, we work with parents in order to support their children to flourish by being engaged in and enjoying their learning, they are achieving well holistically, they are happy and confident, and they get on well with each other through the positive relationships that they have formed.

Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, 'I tell you not seven times, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven times).'

(Matthew 18:21-22)

We aim to provide staff and visitors a safe space where they are valued and can thrive.

### **Fullness –**

Jesus said 'I have come that you may have life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

Jesus calls us to a full life in mind, body, heart, and spirit. Therefore, at Mary Dean's we believe the purpose of our school family is to nurture and enable every member to thrive and to be the person they are fully capable of being. We do this through accepting everyone as an individual, celebrating their achievements, practising forgiveness, and adapting the curriculum to suit their needs, to provide the right level of challenge and support to build curiosity, responsibility, resilience, confidence, and a love of learning.

We have developed an outward looking curriculum that encourages the children to relish in the wonders of the world, being courageous citizens who wish to stand up for what is right, to be thankful for the wows in the world and through fascination and inquiry, endeavour to make our planet a better place. This is reinforced with an understanding of spirituality based on Liz Mills' Windows, Mirrors and Doors.

	How do we see this value in our school	Key Story – <b>to be chosen by the Ethos Group</b>
<b>Thankfulness</b> 'Always be thankful.' 1 Thessalonians 5.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We celebrate our achievements every week in collective worship, and we thank God for his blessings.</li> <li>- Through Windows, Mirrors and Doors, we learn to be thankful for God's wonderful world.</li> <li>- Children are encouraged to use manners as a matter of course.</li> </ul>	
<b>Truthfulness</b> 'Tell the truth to each other.' Zechariah 8.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Truthfulness is valued when implementing a relational approach to behaviour management.</li> </ul>	
<b>Responsibility</b> 'Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.' John 4:34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our School Council, Eco Warriors Committee, Digital Leaders, and Sports Leaders take responsibly for appropriate areas within our school life.</li> <li>- Year 6's are encouraged to perform duties at lunchtime both in the dinner hall and with the younger members of our school.</li> <li>- All members of the school are expected to take responsibility for the environment to their best ability.</li> </ul>	
<b>Friendship</b> 'Encourage one another and build each other up.' 1 Thessalonians 5.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Year 6's support the younger children to form friendships and to mediate problems.</li> <li>- We are a school that celebrates the successes of others, achieved in and out of school.</li> <li>- Friendships are nurtured by staff when they have broken down.</li> <li>- SENTA's run a Friendship Tree support group for children finding relationships with others challenging.</li> <li>- We encourage the use of the bike track for the entire village</li> </ul>	
<b>Forgiveness</b> 'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.' Colossians 3.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reconciliation is supported by adults on the playground and in the classroom.</li> <li>- PSHEE lessons support the concept of forgiveness.</li> </ul>	
<b>Courage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Children are encouraged to have the</li> </ul>	

<p>'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1.9</p>	<p>courage to challenge themselves to try new things in lessons: in PE, in areas that are not strengths and to perform in class led collective worship, lead prayers in whole school worship and Christian festival performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- They show courage when representing or competing for the school.</li><li>- They show courage when doing the right thing, especially when this is difficult.</li></ul>	
--	--	--