The Dever Valley Federation

Barton Stacey C of E Primary School

Micheldever C of E Primary School

Like the river running through our valley, The Dever Valley Federation is a place of life. Everyone is welcome in our family where we grow, learn and achieve alongside one another. The gifts given to us by God support us in our journey; LOVE binds us together, TRUST keeps us together, FORGIVENESS transforms us and HOPE carries us forward through life.

Our vision and values are grounded in the Christian story, as told in the life and teachings of Jesus. Water is essential for all life, but Jesus said that he brings the "water of life" – water which is life-giving and eternal (John 4:14). As a Church of England school, we are inspired by this image to seek to share life-giving water with everyone in our Federation family, through our core values:

Love – God is love. If you live in love, you live by the help of God and God lives in you.
1 John 4:16

- The pattern of our love for each other is the way that God loves us – unconditionally and eternally.
- This love is seen in the way that Jesus respected all those he met and reached out to those on the margins.
- We show our love through our inclusivity, valuing everyone's unique worth.

Our children say: "love is a relationship, and means caring for everyone in our school family like the shepherd cared for his lost sheep."

Trust – Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on eagles' wings; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.
Isaiah 40:31

- When we trust in God and in each other we are more confident to take risks and try new things.
- When we are trusted we in turn become more trustworthy. As Jesus trusted his disciples to carry on his work for him, so we reciprocate when we are trusted.
- We show our trust through giving our pupils independence and responsibilities, and show our trustworthiness by our acts of community service.

Our children say: "trust is about knowing each other, it's the bond which holds our relationships together."

Forgiveness – Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

- When we feel forgiven for the things we have done wrong, we are more able to forgive others for what they have done wrong.
- Forgiveness is a process founded on justice – justice here and now and God's eternal justice.
- We show forgiveness through our behaviour policy, which focuses on restoration and the opportunity to turn it around.

Our children say: "forgiveness is what we need for good teamwork; we need to let it go when something bad has happened, like Joseph forgave his brothers."

Hope – I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

- When we are hopeful for the future, we can look forwards with joy and confidence.
- Hoping in God's plans helps us to see beyond our current situation and to become resourceful, resilient people.
- We show our hope by having high expectations, supporting everyone (children and adults) to achieve.

Our children say: "hope is looking forward to good things, and cheering other people on when they try something new."

We invite all members of our community – of all faiths and none – to explore and live out these values together.