

## Ethos and Values

### "Learning together for Life"

#### **Ethos:**

Welwyn St Mary's school sets a firm foundation for every child's future by developing a life long love of learning underpinned by Christian values.

#### **Our Aims & Values:**

- To provide the best learning experiences for all our pupils
- To pursue excellence and enjoyment in all aspects of our life and work
- To create a safe and caring environment where all pupils feel valued, secure and have a strong sense of self-worth
- To challenge and support our pupils' learning
- To develop our pupils intellectually, spiritually and socially to their full potential
- To foster creativity and innovation
- To equip our children to be good citizens now and in the future
- To enable our children to make healthy choices
- To respect one another
- To ensure equality of opportunity for all members of our community
- To work in partnership with parents and families
- To develop and maintain strong community links within our school, our village and the world beyond

Together, we can ensure that your child will benefit from an exciting and enriching education and will enjoy a successful and happy time at our school.

As a Church of England school, we encourage our pupils to develop an understanding of the message and meaning of Christianity. The Christian faith is therefore at the core of our R.E. scheme of work. However, we encourage and expect a tolerance and respect for all beliefs. At Key Stage One, the children learn about religious traditions by studying a variety of stories, celebrations and customs. In Key Stage Two, Christianity is studied alongside Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam. All the children are encouraged to learn from religion about the importance of rules and values in our own lives.

We meet together at a daily assembly. These are centred on the Christian faith but other world religious traditions are recognised and accepted. We expect the children to develop sensitivity and understanding when exploring not just their own beliefs but those of others. Assemblies are an opportunity to explore and share things we value and to honour excellence. We sing hymns together, listen to music and give the children time to reflect and pray. We encourage positive moral and social attitudes and enable the children to develop a sense of wonder and an appreciation of the aesthetic and spiritual aspects of life. Parents are encouraged to attend class assemblies in which their children are actively involved and their achievements shared and celebrated.

The Rector of Welwyn keeps in close contact with the school, taking assembly every week and an annual school Eucharist. The children attend St Mary's church for major festivals and visit it as part of the R.E. curriculum. Several school governors are church or diocesan representatives.

Everyone in the school community is encouraged to share the love, trust and sense of fellowship that being in a church school can bring.