

# ST LUKE'S, WOODVALE VALUES DOCUMENT

Inclusiveness  
Forgiveness  
Service  
Attentiveness  
Courage  
Loyalty  
Personal Best

## PREAMBLE

In this community, our actions and our policies will be guided by the seven principles outlined below. Since the most adequate word we have for God is 'Love', we acknowledge this as the Great Value from which these seven derive.

We see these values as a spectrum - each one overlapping and contributing to the next like the colours of the rainbow. Just as a rainbow's colours are dispersed through a prism, these aspects of God's great love for us are most clearly seen through the prism of community.

As a Christian community founded in his name, we draw particular inspiration from the writings of Luke the Evangelist, and we name these values as our own.

## A RAINBOW OF VALUES ~ OUR COVENANT

**INCLUSIVENESS 'EVERYONE BELONGS'**  
**FORGIVENESS 'EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES'**  
**SERVICE 'USE YOUR POWER WELL'**  
**ATTENTIVENESS 'SEE GOD IN EVERY MOMENT'**  
**COURAGE 'STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT'**  
**LOYALTY 'SPEAK WELL OF OTHERS'**  
**PERSONAL BEST 'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'**

## INCLUSIVENESS      'EVERYONE BELONGS'

*'When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; and you will be blessed, because they are not able to pay you back.'*

**(Lk 14: 13,14)**

**(See also Acts 10: 44-48)**

As human beings, we are fundamentally social beings. We need each other like we need air. Other people help us to define who we are. We want to know that we matter and are valued. A truly inclusive community will allow people to be different in the knowledge that each person is a direct and profound expression of God our Creator. Exclusion is a form of violence, subtle often and harmful always. It follows, then, that when we ignore the exclusion of someone else and choose not to act, we become complicit in the wrong being done. The truly Lucan community has a bias towards the outsiders and rejected. We will act to ensure that our policies and practices are open and inclusive.

**At St Luke's we believe that ~ 'Everyone Belongs'**

### ***Speaking to children about this value***

God created every one of us with love and attention to detail. He wanted us to be just who we are. In God's eyes we are all equally unique. We are His children. God is happy when His children look after one another. When, however, anyone is left out or picked on for any reason, God feels the pain and hurt they feel. This is why God sent us Jesus as a suffering

Saviour. Jesus felt the suffering of the poor, sick and unpopular people he met. Jesus reminded us that **'Everyone Belongs'**.

## **FORGIVENESS**                    **'EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES'**

*'Do not judge others, and God will not judge you; do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others, and God will forgive you!*

**(Lk 6: 37-39)                    (See also Lk 15)**

It is human to make mistakes and so all people are in need of forgiveness. If we were judged at our lowest, we would all be condemned. Forgiveness and reconciliation, restores the right relationship between two people, between ourselves and God, with creation and within ourselves. To practise forgiveness is to take seriously our school motto 'New People, New Life', as well as to connect us with the charisms of the Mercy Order, part of our tradition as a school.

**At St Luke's we will accept that ~ 'Everyone Makes Mistakes'**

### ***Speaking to children about this value***

All people make mistakes. Sometimes a mistake someone makes can upset or damage another person. When we are hurt like this, sometimes we want to hurt them back or to refuse to be their friend. Jesus said, however, that we must learn to forgive others, to accept that they made a mistake and to stay in a relationship with that other person who has hurt us. We will all need to forgive and to be forgiven lots of times during our lives. People who learn to forgive – to let go of the past hurt – are walking in Jesus' footsteps and making their world better to be in. Jesus knew that **'Everyone Makes Mistakes'** and he loved them anyway.

## **SERVICE**                            **'USE YOUR POWER WELL'**

*'Who is greater, the one who sits down to eat or the one who serves? The one who sits down, of course. But I am among you as one who serves.'*

**(Lk 22)                            (See also Lk 13: 30)**

As adults who work with children, staff and parents are always in positions of power, positions that must be used lovingly. Power is for people and not over people. During his life Jesus expressed the power of service to transform the social reality ~ a transformation that led him to the Cross. It is powerful to serve others. Our students, too, need to learn that they have the power to serve other people and that this is, in fact, the true human vocation.

**At St Luke's we ~ 'Use Our Power Well'**

### ***Speaking to children about this value***

We need to know that we have the power to make other people happy. We can do this by understanding them and by seeing what they need. When we see someone else's need and act to help them out, we are showing the power of serving others. Jesus changed the world by exercising this new way of being powerful. Who needs **you** today? Jesus **'Used His Power Well'** by serving others.

## **ATTENTIVENESS**                    **'SEE GOD IN EVERY MOMENT'**

*'And some seeds fell in good soil; the plants grew and bore grain, a hundred grains each....Listen then, if you have ears!'*

**(Lk 8: 8)                            (See also Lk 12: 35-40)**

It is sometimes difficult to have 'ears to hear' God speaking in our lives. His message of love is not easily heard amidst the din of our age. Distracted from God, we may fall into the habit of thinking that information is wisdom, that permissiveness is freedom, that the individual is the ultimate reality. These things are deadly to our spiritual health ~ which is to say that they are deadly to human happiness. In Luke, we are called to listen afresh to the God of everyday. God awaits us at the centre of our being, calling and accepting and asking only our attention to His loving presence in our lives.

**At St Luke's we will try to ~ 'See God In Every Moment'**

### ***Speaking to children about this value***

We are never alone because God is with us in every moment of our lives. He notices us even when we don't notice him. Every moment of our days and nights is full of the presence of God. We can learn to see him in the people around us, to hear him in the wind, to tell him in our times of need. His voice is everywhere and it says to us always 'I love you'. Jesus was good at listening to God, he spoke to him often in prayer. He learned to **'See God in Every Moment'**.

## **COURAGE**

### **'STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT'**

*'...allow us, your servants, to speak your message with boldness'*  
**(Acts 4: 29)**

The original audience for Luke's message were ordinary people who were often persecuted for their faith. The courage of these early Christians is almost beyond understanding. It reminds us that our faith should not be a passive and mostly hidden thing. Rather it should be characterised by our action in the world. Courage takes practice. When we act with courage we free ourselves from the weight of our own cowardice which drains us of hope and self respect.

**At St Luke's we will ~ 'Stand Up For What is Right'**

### ***Speaking to children about this value***

It is important to be brave ~ to have the courage to do what is right even if it means we have to risk being hurt by this. When we turn away from doing what is right we allow harm to be done. If everyone in the world could learn to **'Stand Up for What is Right'**, then wars would stop, resources would be shared and hearts would be healed. Jesus could never bear to see wrong being done ~ he had to speak up. He was a man of courage.

## **LOYALTY**

### **'SPEAK WELL OF OTHERS'**

*'Every tree is known by the fruit it bears....A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things. For the mouth speak what the heart is full of.'*

**(Lk 6: 44,45)**

**(See also Lk 11: 33-36)**

It is sobering to be reminded of this. We know that our words have the power to harm or heal but Luke reminds us that our harmful words also reveal envy and bitterness that have gathered in our hearts. The authentic Lucan community is characterised by people who use their words to raise other people up, to add to their lives, to challenge them lovingly when necessary. Loyalty to others, especially when they are not present, is a powerful builder of trust between people.

## **At St Luke's we will ~ 'Speak Well Of Each Other'**

### ***Speaking to children about this value***

We know that our words have the power to harm other people. Unkind or false words (lies) can be used to do all sorts of damage. Often, unkind words are spoken about someone who isn't there to hear them. This is not fair. St Luke reminds us that our mouths speak what our hearts are full of. In other words, we are what we say ~ and if we only have words of dislike or hurt to say ~ it is because of our own unhappy hearts. Our words tell people what is inside us and we all must learn that when we **Speak Well of Others**, we also speak well of ourselves.

## **PERSONAL BEST            'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'**

*'No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lamp stand, so that those who enter may see the light!*  
**(Lk 8: 16)**

It is obvious that we are all different and this is to be celebrated. It is also true that each one of us can always be better than we are. This will never change and we will never be perfect. In trying to achieve the most we can, however, we come closer to God's wish for us. We are created with a unique ability to learn and this is one important way of expressing our inner gifts. We commit ourselves to our personal best not for reasons of small pride but because we share in a much bigger pride ~ the pride of being called to life by God

## **At St Luke's we will ~ 'Let Our Light Shine'**

### ***Speaking to children about this value***

Most people don't know just how special they really are. We each have a combination of gifts ~ imagination, intelligence, kindness, understanding and many more. Sometimes these gifts, are hard to see because we hide them from the world. You might hide your gifts because you don't want people to know how clever you are, or because your friends might not have the same values as you. This 'hiding of gifts' is wrong because it stops us from showing who we really are. Jesus was fully the man God intended him to be. He saw the light in other people and most importantly he **'Let His Own Light Shine'**! That's how he changed the world.