
 **The Swallowtail Federation of Church Schools** 
With friendship, trust and kindness we fly!

(Love your neighbour as yourself, Mark 12:30)

We welcome all people and encourage everyone to meet their full potential – to love each other, love to learn and learn to live in all its fullness. We love our neighbours – in our school, our federation, the local community, nationally and globally, as Jesus told us to do so.

Theological Rationale for Swallowtail Federation

Commentary

Swallowtail is a caring, nurturing federation where we ensure that all our pupils feel secure, respected and loved. Showing our reflection of Psalm 86:15 'But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.' We ensure that we show faith in all our pupils and their capabilities. They understand that they can share their own feelings, thoughts and ideas without recrimination but with joy and consideration.

At swallowtail all pupils are treated as individuals, with compassion and with the upmost respect knowing that they are created in the image of God. We acknowledge that 'the ultimate worth of each person is shown in the Gospels through His teaching, healing, feeding, sharing hospitality, befriending, and forgiving' (Church of England, Vision for Education, Pg11)

The curriculum at Swallowtail is based on the federation's vision, values and ethos. It is creative and stimulating with opportunities to learn in many areas of each setting. Jesus engaged His followers with parables, images and questions to stimulate their learning, He also taught in different dwellings, He never anchored Himself to one position. Pupils particularly enjoy learning in the forest school area which enables them to immerse themselves within the wonderful world that God created as proclaimed in Psalm 66:5 'Take a good look at God's wonders-they will take your breath away.' Our federation's curriculum follows the Christian tradition of creativity being affirmed as a quality of God and 'Creativity is not limited to God: if human beings are in God's image, then they can be creative' (Church of England, Vision for Education, p.12)

Extra-curricular activities are a vital part of learning and gives our pupils joy. It allows them to experience different forms of learning and activities that they would not usually encounter within the school day. 'Joy in learning is a mark of the good teacher and the well taught pupil...play and playfulness are part of a full life, and any education that does not communicate joy, wonder, amazement, fascination and delight has failed.' (Church of England, Vision for Education, P.12)

Swallowtail is a federation of schools with a family outlook. We ensure all pupils, staff and family members are made to feel welcome and special when they enter, thus showing the scripture written in Mark 12:30-31 'Love your neighbor as yourself'. Many family events are planned throughout the year and are attended well. 'Each school is to be a hospitable community that seeks to embody an ethos of living well together.' (Church of England, Vision for Education, P.11)

Safety of our pupils is paramount at Swallowtail, we ensure that our pupils are both safe and secure within their settings. We encourage all pupils to take risks throughout their learning thus developing their self-awareness, physical and emotional development. We mirror the image, 'God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need Him', Psalm 46:1 and 'God has you in the palm of His hand', Isaiah 49:16.

'With friendship, trust and kindness we fly', is the vision of Swallowtail. We believe that this encompasses all that we stand for and the values of Christ. We show friendship at all times to all that enter our settings just as it is written in Proverbs 17:17 'A friend loves at all times'. We show trust in each other and in God as recorded in Psalm 56:3 'When I am afraid, I put trust in You.' Finally we show kindness to all as we are instructed in Ephesians 4:32, 'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.' Valuing this vision enables us all to move forward in our learning together (Year 4 pupil)