

# IQ5 - How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create an active culture of justice and responsibility?



Pupils recognise that helping others begins with the community and not just overseas. Children have the knowledge that support doesn't just take the form of raising money but also through other events such as preventing social isolation e.g. letters to local care homes. Pupils recognise that 'working together' extends beyond the school context which is driven by our vision to shine bright in the world.

Through our work to gain our 'Global Neighbours' bronze award accreditation, pupils are being

encouraged to think about ways in which we can challenge injustices and how our school community can support charitable events e.g. Fairtrade Fortnight. Children are skilled at reflecting on choices made and can vocalise how they may deal with things differently as they learn and grow.

Global Citizens are strategic in exploring the issues of exploitation of the natural world and raising awareness of issues. The council are committed to reducing the school's carbon footprint. Children are encouraged think globally and make connections between recycling and natural exploitation. The children are highly aware of disadvantage and seek to support others not as fortunate as themselves. Pupils at St Matthew's can relate the school's Christian Values to their activities and understand that by helping others they are fulfilling God's word. Our children have good understanding of charities and select charities that they choose to give to during Enterprise week. Children relate the school's Christian Values to their activities and understand that by helping others they are fulfilling God's word.



In RE, Science, History, Geography and PSHE lessons, there is a focus on 'Big Questions' through the use of direct enquiry questions for pupils to explore and relating these to our school mission statement and work together concepts.





The emphasis is on how can they, as children of God make a difference to the world we live in. Issues of global significance and ecology of the world are studied and discussed. For example, look at maintaining the world in an eco- friendly way and the direct effects of plastic pollution exploring the question “Are we destroying our planet?”. Y3 study Mountains “Are people mad to climb mountains?” and YR focus on the seasons and changes to the natural world “What’s the weather like today?”. We want pupils at St Matthew’s to be inspired by our curriculum offer a proactive in being agent of change.

'Courageous advocacy', which we instil in our children, enables our school community to develop a greater awareness of the challenges others face in life and how they, as individuals, can support causes and make a difference in

our school community, local community and further afield. At Stretton St Matthew's, we encourage and support our children to be 'courageous advocates'. This means they champion causes which are special and meaningful to them – WWF Adopt an Animal Project, Rainforest Alliance etc... These may be global issues or matters far more personal and closer to home. We believe this develops resilience, teamwork, courage and independence and an understanding of the wider world and how they can help make it a better place.

Every child in our school is a courageous advocate for the common good locally, nationally and globally. We fundraise and support a range of charities, stand up for what we believe and challenge injustice to bring about change. We take time to reflect upon and appreciate how lucky we are to be part of such a nurturing school environment, surrounded by supportive peers and staff, which allows us to **live life in all its fullness** and **flourish** as individuals. As a result, our pupils are articulate advocates of change and challenge injustice and inequality. They have regular opportunities to engage in social action projects and are active in the community in sharing the messages.



Supporting a wide number of charities, locally, nationally and globally, is an integral part of life at Stretton St Matthew's. We regularly welcome representatives from charities such as Christian Aid into our school. Our children and staff are often moved by the work of these charities and, as a result, develop their own initiatives to help support this work and regularly organise fundraising events, with children even suggesting and organising events of their own.





### **Courageous Advocacy at St Matthew's aims to:**

- encourage children to think widely and deeply about issues (asking 'why?');
- empower children to understand political processes and their own rights and responsibilities in society;
- encourage children to think of creative solutions to problems (asking 'what can be done about it?');
- equip children to identify where power is located and how decisions are made;
- enable children to express themselves confidently and articulately to decision-makers and others.

All of our work to create an active culture of justice and responsibility is underpinned by our vision to ensure that we **work together** to stand up for what we believe and challenge injustice to bring about change. Pupils have the confidence to **shine bright** by expressing themselves confidently and articulately to decision makers and others.