

Family Values

Our Christian Value of the month is...



Justice

Dear Lord,

Help us to love our neighbours more than we love ourselves, respecting differences and embracing what we have in common to find harmony. Help us to be your echoes of mercy and whispers of love. Use our hands to extend help to those who are in need of it. Guide our hearts to an everlasting peace. Help us to be instruments of justice, and stewards of Your Word. In your name we pray.

The prophet Amos (5:24)

'Let justice and fairness flow like a river that never runs dry.'

Justice is obtained in most democratic societies through a system of laws, which are there to make sure that people are not hurt or exploited by others. These laws are made by people to protect them from their own worst behaviour. However, sometimes these very laws are shown to be unfair and they need to be challenged and changed. A simple 'rule of thumb' on what is just behaviour is provided by the so-called 'golden rule', taken from Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount:

'Treat others as you want them to treat you' (Matthew 7:12). Jesus calls his followers to see justice, not as a way of getting revenge and paying people back; instead, he calls them to forgive their enemies, go the extra mile and not judge other people.

We might encounter issues of justice when:

- we are involved in solving classroom disputes and personal rivalries
- we experience the rules of a school
- we help establish golden rules for the classroom, playground or dining hall
- we buy fairly traded goods or ethical clothing
- we hear stories that explore global inequalities
- we become arbiters for others in disputes
- we hear about inequality and unfairness on the TV or via the Internet
- we get involved in charity campaigns such as those run by in Christian Aid, Oxfam, Tearfund or CAFOD

These are things we might like to think about...

Personal justice - 'playing fair' with others; respecting others' rights; acting responsibly and fairly with the people we meet each day

Social justice - speaking up on behalf of others in the community; recognising that others are fellow human beings with the same rights as ourselves; making sure all voices are heard impartially; challenging biased reporting, unfair practices and institutional prejudice; working for a fairer society

Global justice - honouring human rights for all people; campaigning for a fairer world; challenging unfair systems of trade and exposing financial exploitation; speaking up for the poor, the marginalised and the vulnerable; giving a fair hearing to migrant workers, refugees, the forgotten poor and the powerless; speaking up against global inequality; reassessing our own experiences of justice in the light of global issues

Family Values House Points

Look at the attached photograph sheet. What do you think is happening? Do you think it is fair or unfair? If you think it shows injustice what could be done to right the wrong? Choose one of the photos to write a caption for, you can bring the photo back to school for our values display and earn your 10 FV house points. If you would like a copy of the photograph sheet printed, please ask at the school office.