



THE BATT C of E SCHOOL



Courageous Advocacy

At the Batt School we are committed to ensuring that social action informs our shared experiences at the school, and isn't simply a list of occasional charities we support. We are committed to courageous advocacy as a means of creating confidence in our pupils that they can make a real change to some of the world's challenges.

In the discussion paper 'The Fruits of the Spirit' (2015), the Church of England Education Office articulated it in this way:

'The role of the Church of England as the established Church is to look constantly to the bigger picture, to follow a higher calling, to be a prophetic voice in society. Character education may be educating every child to be as well equipped to be a prophet as to turn a profit'

In order to develop this, we commit to:

- Commending examples of where people speak out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard;
- Equipping our young people to be agents of change, both locally and globally;
- Expanding our understanding of the ways the bible challenges us to embrace God's heart for all, including the disadvantaged and marginalised;
- Deepening our awareness of the parable of the Good Samaritan (the image used for our founder's memorial in church (cf Luke 10.25ff)), in particular that this is a story not just about 'mercy' and 'compassion' but also about speaking up for the voiceless.

To do this we will encourage:

Wisdom	develop people who seek wisdom, nurturing skills and creativity, including, notably, in the area of sustainable development
Hope	open up horizons and seek to inspire hope in God's future for our world as we provide opportunities to encounter the Jesus of hope and experience the possibility of a vision of justice and mercy, sending out young people who are carriers of hope
Community	teach people what it means to live in a global community that enables people to flourish and the centrality of love of God and neighbour to this
Dignity	embody respect and value each person, blessing others that they in turn might be a blessing.

As we explore this we will be aware that:

- taking action should be a deeply educational and empowering experience involving reflection and critical thinking. Pupils should be involved in



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decision-making and have a sense of ownership and understanding of why they are taking a particular action;

- pupils should be encouraged to think critically through the full range of options and how they help address the causes and symptoms of a particular situation;
- pupils should be supported to think through the possible consequences of their actions and to take account of the law, school policies and ethical and safety considerations;
- pupils should reflect on what has been learned through taking action.

To show courageous advocacy at the Batt and St Mary's Schools, we ensure there are:

- Leadership opportunities for children within school, including involvement in School Council, House Captains, Worship Council and Play Leaders
- Enrolling in a Young Leaders programme
- Work with charities such as the African Children's Fund, Witney
- Engaging in the Global Neighbours programme
- Use of the 'Zellar' app with School Council to develop our approach both locally and globally to sustainability
- Enabling children to have a sense of ownership over actions taken