

Week Monday 6th July- Friday 17th July	Core Value Focus Togetherness
Scripture Link <p>"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." Philippians 2:1-4.</p>	Message from the Principal <p>Togetherness at Queen Elizabeth's is best summed up in a line from our academy prayer: "many hearts make a school". At Queen Elizabeth's we celebrate our shared history, our traditions and our faith. We talk about "learning and loving together" because we recognise that it is togetherness that provides the foundation on which our curriculum, our pastoral care and our Christian ethos is built. When we stand together and believe in one another we can achieve anything- this is the QEA way.</p>
Message from the Chaplain <u>What is togetherness?</u> <p>Togetherness is experienced on many levels. In one sense we are all part of one human race in another we are together in families or together as a nation. The human bond of relationship is one of the main points of life. We are happiest when we have someone to share that happiness with. Sometimes we think we'd like to be alone all the time but remember 'no man is an island'. Countries, families and schools thrive when we see the value of what we have in common. Working together we can achieve so much more than apart.</p> <u>Why is it difficult?</u> <p>The difficult part is when we allow our differences which may be real on one level to stop us from acting in kindness and love towards others. Another difficulty is where we put 'togetherness' above freedom or truth. If we let a group make decisions for us or if we go along with a lie because for the sake of being 'together' that's dangerous too.</p> <u>Why is it important?</u> <p>So we need togetherness but a togetherness that recognises our individual qualities and freedoms and doesn't sacrifice other good values. After all opposite of togetherness is not individuality but is selfishness. If we see all that we have in common with each other, if we acknowledge our differences but can still come together then we are doing one of the most important things any person can do. It will transform our lives and every community we are part of! Our school is a wonderful opportunity to live out in practice this fantastic vision of togetherness. Especially in these times where we have been challenged physically and emotionally and been separated for so long we need to rally around what</p>	Discussion points <u>What is togetherness?</u> <p>What ways do you see yourself 'together' with others? Put them in order of importance for you personally.</p> <u>Why is it good?</u> <p>How do you feel when you are together with people you get on with? How does it feel to share your happiness or sadness with someone else vs. being alone in those times?</p> <u>Why is it difficult?</u> <p>What can get in the way of 'togetherness' for you and your relationships? Are there dangers when 'togetherness' could be too much? How do we make sure we can still make our own choices but still be 'together'?</p> <u>Why is it important?</u> <p>If we all acted completely as individuals not just as unique individuals in a group but if we only looked after our own interests and needs what would that be like? What would it be like if people did that to you?</p> <u>Where does it come from?</u> <p>What's the best way you think we can achieve togetherness? Think about your relationships, school, community and nationally and even internationally? Have a think about how the church tries to follow God's spirit to stay 'together'. What would your response be if you were there and saw Jesus' Hebrew disciples speaking your language and telling all about God? How would it feel to be a Christian in the Roman empire? What do you think about being 'reunited with God'?</p>

we have in common.

After lockdown is completely finished let's value and embrace the togetherness we can have in our amazing living school community.

Where does togetherness come from?

The fact is that we all look to different ideas to unite us. Many unite around interests, beliefs and activities. I believe the best unity we can find starts with God.

Christians believe God created one human race, made in God's image with equal value in God's eyes. But he also made us all unique and individuals. I'm happy about that!

Christian Togetherness

Jesus wanted to make a community where his people could be together. Jesus called this his 'church'. This is supposed to be a place where believers in Jesus come together and serve one another. It is a place where there are different roles for everyone, different gifts and different backgrounds even different authority and responsibility but where everyone is of equal value with equal rights. The togetherness the church has is based on Jesus sending his Spirit. When Christians live by following God's spirit we see a beautiful togetherness that breaks all boundaries. When Christians don't allow God's Spirit to guide them there is no togetherness!

There have been some incredible times of God showing what 'togetherness looks like' When the church was born at Pentecost thousands of people saw the disciples speaking about the wonderful works of God miraculously in their own language. Sadly the Roman empire slavery was everywhere and it didn't go away. Christians were taught that every human was of equal value and this didn't match up with the slavery going on. The church was so different to society that people who were slaves in society were actually leaders in the church and slave masters were under the leadership of their slaves!. This powerful conformation of the value of each human life would eventually lead to slavery being abolished in the West as Christianity turned the world upside down.

Togetherness with God

There is an even greater togetherness that Jesus came to bring. Not only to unite people with each other and break down the walls between humans but also to breakdown the separation between God and man. When Jesus died the huge curtain separating the holiest place in the temple tore from the top to the bottom because God had ripped down the separating walls to Himself. This was one of the many symbols which speak of Jesus death and

What do you think about Jesus coming to bring 'togetherness' with God?

<p>resurrection bringing us 'together' with God. Christians believe Jesus came to reunite us with God. To clear the way, to show the way and to be the way. Christians celebrate togetherness, even when we are different, even where we disagree we have a togetherness being made in God's image. Christians also celebrate that God himself though Jesus wants to be together with us. They believe that God's spirit in our hearts will bring us true togetherness with God and man.</p>	
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