

# TOLERANCE



No one is born with hatred or intolerance.

## WORD OF THE WEEK

**Jesus** said to his disciples: “You know that you have been taught, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I tell you not to try to get even with a person who has done something to you. When someone slaps your right cheek, turn and let that person slap your other cheek. If someone sues you for your shirt, give up your coat as well. If a soldier forces you to carry his pack one mile, carry it two miles. When people ask you for something, give it to them. When they want to borrow money, lend it to them. “You have heard people say, “Love your neighbours and hate your enemies.” But I tell you to love your enemies and pray for anyone who mistreats you. Then you will be acting like your Father in heaven. He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people. And he sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong. If you love only those people who love you, will God reward you for that? Even tax collectors love their friends. If you greet only your friends, what’s so great about that? Don’t even unbelievers do that? But you must always act like your Father in heaven.” **Matthew 5:38-48**

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Ghandi once said: “An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind!” This warns us of the dangers of not being able to see the other person’s point of view and clinging relentlessly to our own beliefs and opinions. It is good to stand up for what we believe in, but if we want to build a healthy world we have to be able to understand and respect the beliefs, customs, and lifestyles of the other 6 billion people with whom we share this one planet! Often when someone is different from us we are too quick to create a “them” and “us” divide, and we can even go so far as to call them “enemies”. When Jesus calls us to love our enemies he is encouraging us to be tolerant – tolerance does not mean that we necessarily agree, or ignore each other: it means we make space for other people’s opinions, which to us may seem different, odd, confusing, interesting wrong...

## SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

- Who might be vulnerable to intolerance in today's world?
- How do you feel when you come across intolerant actions or words?
- When do you find it hard to be tolerant?
- What can you do to help promote tolerance in your community?

## SOMETHING TO DO

In your form classes think of a pledge that you can do to put your faith into action.

Write your pledge on your year group letter and decorate the letter.



## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving Father, we who are  
divided,  
unloving,  
prejudiced at times,  
inclined to misunderstanding,  
intolerant.

Make us instead  
united,  
loving,  
open to learning,  
understanding and forgiving,  
tolerant.

May your Spirit be present in us as  
you are in all peoples.  
Amen.

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

This coming weekend is a busy one.

Some of our pupils will be attending  
**MAKE SOME NOISE** on Friday night for  
an evening of spirituality.

Our SVP group will be going to Castlerigg  
for a weekend retreat to reflect on putting  
their faith into action.

Finally, 40 Year 11 pupils will be  
travelling to Poland to visit Auschwitz  
concentration camp and Krakow  
Cathedral.

We hope all these groups have a safe and  
rewarding experience.