Nacton C of E Primary School
TRUTHFULNESS – Autumn term 2023

Agreed definition:
Truth matters. As individuals, being truthful means that we can grow and mature, learning from our mistakes. For society, truthfulness makes social bonds, and lying breaks them. If you doubt this, consider what happens when you find out that someone has lied to you. You feel less inclined to trust them next time, and less inclined to trust other people more generally.
In school we show our understanding of truthfulness by:

- Telling the truth to each other all the time
- Remembering that God taught us we should always be truthful
- Knowing we should not tell lies

Key Bible Verse:
'Tell the truth to each other.'
Zechariah 8.16

Key Bible Character:

Zaccheaus had a life changing encounter with Jesus. As a tax collector he was dishonest and unpopular. After Jesus visited his house, he changed. He pledged to give away half of what he had. In addition, he stated he would surrender everything he had ever stolen. He acknowledged he had made many mistakes in the past. He became truthful in his interactions with others.



Questions:
What does it mean to be truthful? Is telling the truth always the right thing to do? Is being truthful always easy? What are the consequences of not being truthful?



BSL: Truth
click here
Closed hand with index finger extended touches mouth. Hand moves forwards and down while opening to rest on open up-turned palm of other hand.

Gathering and Sending:
Call: Truth be with you.
Response: And also with you.

A Christian perspective:

Jesus said 'I am the way the truth and the life,' John 14: 6

Truth is revealed in the Bible and Christians see Jesus as the example of truth in everything. The life of Jesus shows us how God wants us to live. Christians ask, "What would Jesus say?" Or, "What would Jesus do?" Christians understand we all face dilemmas about telling the truth but need to realise that telling the truth is better than carrying the burden of a lie. In the Bible there are various stories which exemplify the importance of truth.

Christian Festivals this term

Harvest – a season of thankfulness Harvest Resource for schools (padlet.org)	 **Advent- a season of waiting** Resources for Advent (padlet.org)	 **Christmas – a season of celebration** Resources for Christmas (padlet.org)

High Quality Collective Worship ***INSPIRING INVITATIONAL INCLUSIVE***	
Worship leaders need to:	
Gather	• As children enter the hall, they sing or listen to music. • The start of worship is signified through the reading of the gathering by pupils. • The school candles are lit.
Engage	• Each worship session has a clear message. • We talk about Jesus, his example and other Bible stories. • We ensure children are involved in delivering Collective Worship
Respond	• At the beginning of this time, we say 'time to think OR time to pray' • We ask children to all be quiet and still. • We have a prayer in every assembly. We begin by inviting everyone to join in with amen if they want to. We offer the choice of saying their own prayer. Or just time to think or reflect. • We sing inclusive songs together. Children are invited to sing strongly confessional songs during Easter and Christmas.
Send	• The Collective Worship team close worship • Candles are extinguished. If real candles being used, we watch the smoke and think about God's love spreading out across the world. • After the sending, the last thing children hear as they leave the space is something to think about linked to the content of the worship.

Expectations of Staff

All staff are invited to attend daily collective worship as an important part of their own wellbeing and spiritual growth, allowing time to learn and celebrate, or just to be still and reflect. Teachers are expected to attend every act of Collective Worship. Teaching Assistants attend on Monday and Friday at a minimum.

Autumn Term Weekly Collective Worship and Worship Leaders

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Values worship GT	Singing worship	Open the book	Seasonal worship and special days	Celebration
Values linked to the teachings of Jesus and the Bible	Inclusive songs, prayer and reflection	Working through The Lion Storyteller Bible in chronological order	Reflecting the seasons of the church	Celebrating together our successes and achievements

Ideas for prayers: Prayers for church schools (padlet.org)

Autumn term rota

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
04.09.23	PD day	PD day	Welcome back GT	KS/Class	Celebration GT
11.09.23	GT Setting expectations	Singing LP	Open the book GT In the beginning	Harvest #1	Celebration GT
18.09.23	Truthfulness #1 GT	Singing LP	Open the book JB A sad day	International day of peace	Celebration GT
25.09.23	Truthfulness #2 GT Rosh Hashanah	Singing LP	Open the book AB A special promise	Harvest #2	Celebration GT
02.10.23	Truthfulness #3 GT	Singing LP	Open the book LB A tall tower	Harvest #3	Celebration National Poetry Day
09.10.23	What I have learnt so far GT	World Mental Health Day LP	Open the book JB God's Friend	World Sight Day Or Harvest #4	Celebration GT
16.10.23	Truthfulness #4 GT	Singing LP	Open the book AB The Bad Brother	Firework safety assembly	PD day
Half Term					
30.10.23	Truthfulness #5	Singing	Open the book	God is… #1	Celebration
06.11.23	Truthfulness #6	Singing	Open the book	Remembrance 	Celebration
13.11.23	Truthfulness #7	Singing	Open the book	God is… #2	Celebration
20.11.23	World Toilet Day	Singing	Open the book	God is… #3	Celebration
27.11.23	Truthfulness #8	Singing	Open the book	God is… #4	Celebration

04.12.23	**Advent starts**	Waiting for Christmas 1	Open the book	International volunteer Day	Celebration
11.12.23	Human Rights Day	Waiting for Christmas 2	Open the book	Singing	Celebration
18.12.23	Christmas Service	Waiting for Christmas 3	Waiting for Christmas 4		

Values Planning

#1	Truth is like turning on the light.	Truth is… **T**rustworthy words and actions **R**espect for doing the right thing **U**ncovering the full picture **T**elling it as it is **H**aving all the facts What are people invited to say in a court of law before swearing an oath? Court oath 'I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth….' In other words they promise to say only what they know to be true. Jesus said - I am the Light of the World John 8:12. Why do you think he said this? When someone tells the truth it is as if a light has been switched on and things are clearer to see. If someone tries to cover or hide the truth it becomes confusing and harder to work out what is real or true. Sometimes we only see part of the picture, and part of the truth can be misleading. Most people would agree it feels better when we tell the whole truth. This week when you are tempted to avoid it, remember that promise people make it court. Can you think of a time when you have only told part of the truth, perhaps leaving some bits out on purpose? Maybe you wanted to impress others or look a certain way?
#2	Being truthful gives us a sense of peace but requires courage.	Jacob and Esau– Lion Storyteller Bible or watch this As you listen ask pupils to think about the results of the lies told. What do you think about how each of the main characters in the story behaved? Jacob was used to dealing with his problems by running away from them. But now he had a choice to make. Would he continue running, or trust that God would pull through for him despite his many mistakes and be truthful? He chose to turn to God, but this decision wasn't an easy one. Have you ever been tempted to tell a lie to get something you want? How did it make you feel inside? God of truth - We thank you for the peace we feel when we are truthful and the way you trouble us inside when we tell lies. Give us your courage to be honest, whatever the cost.
#3	Being truthful is a choice.	The logo for truthfulness is a tick. Why? Zechariah 8:16 Tell the truth to each other. Sometimes other people try to influence us to make the wrong choices and not tell the truth.

	Being untruthful breaks trust.	Two scenarios (lie about age, hand in or keep money?) Broken window. What do you think has happened? What would you do if you had kicked the football? How would you feel? Why might you feel tempted to lie? Make sure that children understand that it might be tempting to lie, to avoid getting into trouble. What would be the right thing to do? The right thing would be to tell the truth and say sorry. Everyone makes mistakes, how you choose to react is the important thing. The window can be fixed. Telling a lie is double trouble. You could be in trouble for breaking the window AND for telling a lie. What would you do? When someone doesn't tell the truth, it makes others unhappy and friendships are broken. TRUST broken. Do you want to be someone that others trust to be truthful, whatever happens? Or someone who when they are tempted just gives in and tells a lie when it's more convenient. You choose!
#4	Truth can be like treasure.	Lots of people dream of finding treasure. Today people put anything that is very valuable in a bank but before the days of banks people who wanted to hide their treasure would often bury it in the ground. Today we are going to hear a story that Jesus told about a man who found some treasure buried in a field. Jesus told this story because he wanted us to know that the truth can be like a treasure. God loves and cares for each one of us – this is a great treasure! It is worth giving everything in order to have it. Jesus said that knowing we are part of God's family was the most precious truth we could know.
#5	We can say truthful things in a loving way.	Have you ever had a friend say one thing to your face, and then you hear later that he or she said something quite different to another person? In the Bible St Paul writes to his friends and says 'speak the truth in a spirit of love' Ephesians 4:15. When we know someone will tell us the truth, and never say one thing to our face and something different to someone else, that person is like an open book. They are easy to read. When someone tells us one thing to our face and another behind our back, that person is like a closed book…..hard to read. The Bible tells us to love truth and to tell the truth with an attitude of love even when it's hard. Can you think of a time when telling the truth was hard? As we pray begin by holding your hands together and imagine a closed book Dear father we are sorry for the times when we have not been truthful to others. And have said one thing to them and another to someone else. *Now open your hands like an open book.* Help us to be like an open book, so that others know that we mean what we say. Help us say difficult things in a loving way. Amen
#6	You can lie by actions as well as by words.	Gestures are a form of silent communication. They can be positive like hand signals used by police. Or they can be negative and lie or insult people. Proverbs 6:12-14 Stupid people go around **telling lies**. They wink with their eyes and beckon with their fingers. They make gestures to deceive people, all the while stirring up trouble.' There is more than one way of lying. A person can lie by their actions not just their words. A person can wink and laugh making out something is a joke when it is serious. People can open their eyes wide and look innocent when they are really guilty. People can point to a person and indicate they started a fight when they really didn't. Ask children to make a stop signal with their hands then close their eyes and think about a time when they were glad that someone

		stopped them doing something that would have got them into trouble.
#7	Truthfulness is a good fruit to grow.	Finding out what a person is like on their inside (their true character) is like being a detective. How can you tell what someone is like on the inside? We have to look at their actions. Read Proverbs 20:11 and Matthew 7:16-20. If someone produces loving behaviour, they are probably not a bad person. Jesus said a person is like a tree. You tell what type of tree it is by its fruit. Good trees produce good fruit. Rotten trees produce rotten fruit. In a similar way you tell a person by their actions. **Good people produce good actions**. The fruits found in the bible are in Galatians 5:22-23 As we grow in your garden Lord help us produce good fruit – the fruits of: Love, our world is desperate for love, Kindness, the daily acts of practical love which make the world a better place, Patience, enjoying the time you give us, not anxious to be on the next thing, Self control, gaining control over our own behaviour, Faithfulness, being loyal to those we love, Peace, bringing peace to those around us, Joy, rejoicing in the good things in life, Goodness, practising goodness in daily life, Humility, holding a right view of ourselves: created special but not perfect.
#8	Truthfulness means being sincere.	Proverbs 26.23 A clay pot can have glaze or no glaze. Glaze covers the cheap material the pot is made from and makes it look good. Read the biblical material. **Insincerity** is when words are used to cover bad thoughts or actions just as glaze covers clay. It is when thoughts don't match words or actions. It would be insincere if someone said they liked you but inside were thinking horrible thoughts about you. Jesus said insincere people were like cups which had been washed on the outside but were still dirty on the inside (Matthew 23:25-6). The Bible says that people should match their thoughts, their words and their actions so others know what they are really like. Life can be a matching game – thoughts matching words, words matching actions. Help us Father, to be sincere in all we think, say and do. May we never use words to cover selfish and unkind thoughts.

Open the book planning

Generic questions - What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn about the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about what Christians believe about God? What if this happened today?

Stories from the Lion Storyteller Bible		
#1	In the beginning	Creation story. Creativity and responsibility for our beautiful world.
#2	A sad day	Theme – honesty. What do you do when you know you've done something wrong? What is the best thing to do when you've done something wrong? (Own up and apologize.) In the story God sent Adam and Eve away, out of the lovely garden, and they learned to be farmers, to grow their own food, and to work on the land. But what might have happened if they'd been honest and owned up ('fessed up!); if they'd taken responsibility for their actions instead of blaming someone else? We don't know. Perhaps we'd still all live in

		that garden, not having to work … But this story is still told as an example of how, when we aren't honest, it affects many more people than just us. We don't know what might have happened in the story if Adam and Eve had been honest. But we can be honest about ourselves, and then we know that whatever we've done, it's easier to make it right again if we take the blame, apologize and acknowledge our part.
#3	A special promise	Everything seemed hopeless – people had become so evil that God could only find one person on the whole earth who still followed his ways. Noah and his ark were a tiny dot of hope in a sea of darkness and destruction - yet Christians believed God used him to bring new hope to the world. Theme – Hope. What does it mean to be hopeful? Where does hope come from? How can we make our school a more hopeful place? How can we bring hope to others?
#4	A tall tower	The people of Babel learned that just because you can do something doesn't necessarily mean you should do it. We need to think carefully before we do something or say something and ask ourselves whether it is kind or unkind, whether it will build something good or bad.
#5	God's friend	God was generous to Abraham and Sarah. He promised to make Abraham the father of a great people and said that Abraham and his descendants must obey God. In return God would guide them and protect them and give them the land of Israel. Every time he gave he was given more in response. Theme – trust/friendship. Repeated throughout the story – 'Abraham trusted God.' What does it mean to trust? What makes someone trustworthy?
#6	Joseph the dreamer	The brothers were responding to their brother's bragging. How do you think Joseph feels about his brothers now? Did he deserve such harsh treatment? Theme – sibling relationships, assertion rather than aggression, regret and bad choices.