**Term 2 Week 9**

**(THEME: Compassion)**

(Please note that the theme COMPASSION runs for two weeks)

**LIFELONG QUALITIES FOR LEARNERS STATEMENT**

**Compassion** (mercy, sympathy, empathy, concern, kindness, consideration, gentleness, care …

Having compassion is being loving and attending to people’s innermost needs. It is exercising the ability to reach out, to walk in another’s shoes, to be open and responsive to the needs and concerns of others and being active in caring for others.

Philippians 2:1, Hosea 11:4, Matthew 5:44, John 15:17, Romans 12:9-13, Colossians 3:12-15 …

**CODE OF ETHICS statement**

**Compassion**

*We are open and responsive to the needs and concerns of others, and exercise the ability to reach out and actively care for them*

*Therefore we:*

*+ take notice of others’ reactions to our actions, tone of voice and manner*

*+ raise any concerns, issues, problems with the appropriate level of school management as soon as possible*

*+ ensure all allegations and suspicions of abuse to young people are recorded and acted upon*

*+ ensure that our personal behaviour does not contribute to inappropriate conduct by others*

*+ ensure that any physical contact with a child is in response to the situation, the needs and wishes of that child, non-secretive and appropriate for the child’s age, health and developmental stage*

*+ recognise that social relations between staff and students can be problematic*

**COMPASSION** – To have compassion is to see a need somewhere else and respond to it. Jesus demonstrated his compassion for us in his coming to live among us. How can we show compassion in the classroom?

**Key Texts, Biblical Comment and Devotional Ideas:**

“*As Jesus and the disciples left the town of Jericho, a large crowd followed behind. Two blind men were sitting beside the road. When they heard that Jesus was coming that way, they began shouting, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” “Be quiet!” the crowd yelled at them. But they only shouted louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” When Jesus heard them, he stopped and called, “What do you want me to do for you?” “Lord,” they said, “we want to see!” Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see! Then they followed him.*” (Matthew 20:29–34, NLT)

***The context:***

The translation reads, “Jesus felt sorry for them”. A better translation would have been “had compassion on them.” The Greek word used here, is a word that speaks to the centre of the gut or intestines – “to be moved to the inner most parts”. Compassion always involves a deep and profound inner feeling that cuts to the core.

***Teaching thought:***

Children are often egocentric. Especially young children. How does one begin the important process of helping them to increase in compassion towards others? Often by seeing how the pain might affect themselves.

***Discuss****:*

Explore the meaning of compassion. What word would you best use to describe the feeling of compassion?

Talk about that feeling inside which makes someone want to throw up. In what way does that reflect the meaning of compassion.

Someone has suggested that to have compassion, one needs to be able to ‘read’ the reactions and responses of others. In what ways might this be true? Should we always respond to how people react to us? In what circumstances?

Discuss the following quote and talk about how it understands the concept of compassion…

“A human being is a part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feeling as something separated from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.” ― Albert Einstein

Discuss the following quote and talk about how it understands the concept of compassion…

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.” ― Mother Teresa

Write a class definition of compassion.

***Additional Resources:***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20MnLcOL7Ks> Dalai Lama talks about compassion as a means of resolving conflict.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qpoFTC5C50> Series of quotes with music

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baUYoq2Vy8s> Clip for children

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOHcGyfYxVM> Jelly telly for kids

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udpm0Heusb0> News report about children involved in compassion

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_z6tJV5uLI> Video on empathy.

***Symbols***

*What do the following symbols suggest about Compassion.*





***Inspirational Item***

Draw a circle. Reflect on what a circle might suggest about compassion.

***Action/Response:***

Spend some time reflecting on ways that you can reflect compassion in class.