



What is a Church of England School and what does it mean to belong to one?

Before the government became involved with providing education for everyone in England, there were church schools and other charitable schools. The majority of church schools were built in the 1800's.

There were two aims, the first to teach Christianity through "Religious Instruction" and the second to hold a regular act of worship.

When the state became involved with providing mass education, church schools became integrated into the education provided by the state. All state schools including church schools have to teach Religious Education and hold a daily act of worship.

The purpose of a Church of England school is to offer a spiritual dimension to the lives of young people, within the traditions of the Church of England, in an increasingly secular world.

25% of primary schools in England have a church foundation.

What is added by being a Church of England school?

Church schools have Christian beliefs and values at their heart. This means that every child and adult associated with the school is not just important because they are members of the school but because they are seen as unique individuals within God's creation. Church schools recognise that as well as academic and emotional intelligence, human beings also have spiritual intelligence. The spiritual aspects of life will be recognised, and nurtured alongside the academic and emotional needs of all. Church schools are places where challenge through questioning is encouraged, as through this we can make sense of the world, the gift of life and the purpose of our own personal lives

What differences should you notice?

As a pupil, parent, visitor or member of staff you should find that your church school is as good as any other good school but you should feel that the way the school works is different and distinctive. That distinctive difference will be rooted in the Christian values that affect the way everyone behaves and is treated. At St Paul's CE Primary School our Christian vision is:

To build the Kingdom of God as we radiate Christian values of honesty, forgiveness, trust, humility, courage, joyfulness and togetherness in our lives, our school and our community.

To encourage children to be who they were made to be and live in harmony with different people - trust, wait and keep persevering – be true to yourself, others and God - learn from mistakes and know there's always a fresh start - rejoice and be thankful in all situations – be fair - be like a servant to others.



Church schools have a duty to:

- ensure that the school is led by a Headteacher who is committed, with the help of staff, to establishing and maintaining the distinctive Christian character of the school in its day to day activities and in the curriculum
- engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day
- offer a school life that incorporates the values of the Christian faith
- ensure that Religious Education is given at least 5% of school time and that the character and quality of Religious Education are a particular concern of the Headteacher and the Governing Body
- maintain and develop a relationship with the Lichfield Diocese Board of Education to whom we belong
- observe the major Christian festivals and in schools which other faiths are present, ensure that those faiths are able and encouraged to mark their major festivals with integrity

- maintain and develop an active and affirming relationship with a parish church
- be courageous advocates for the Christian faith, sharing actively the teachings of the Bible and applying them to everyday life
- develop an understanding of core Christian principles such as the Trinity and forgiveness
- teach children that God loves us all, that we are all uniquely special and that we should love and value others Valuing All God's Children
- help children to learn about Christianity from a worldwide perspective (Global Christianity)
- serve the community with humility and compassion

What makes us distinctive at St Paul's CE Primary School?

Our school motto is;

**'Building each other up – with God as our firm foundation'
(The Bible: I Thessalonians 5:11)**

Life at St Paul's is underpinned by our **7 Rainbow Christian Values** which can be rooted in Biblical teaching. These are:

Togetherness, Trust, Honesty,
Courage, Forgiveness,
Joyfulness and Humility



Children understand these values and can apply them to situations in school and daily life...

Be who you were made to be and live and love in harmony together. Oneness not sameness. (Togetherness)

"Let all that you do be done in love". 1 Corinthians 16: 14

Story – Ruth and Naomi

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Trust, have faith and keep persevering.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge Him,

And He shall direct your paths". Proverbs 3 5-6

Story: Abraham and Sarah waiting patiently for a child

Be true to yourself, others and God. (Honesty)

“Do that which is honest.” 2 Corinthians 13: 7

Story: Zacchaeus giving back the money he stole

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Be fair. Do the right thing, not the easy thing. (Courage)

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”.

Joshua 1: 9

Story: Footprints in the sand. The Starfish.

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Learn from your mistakes – there is always a fresh start. (Forgiveness)

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 32

Story: The Prodigal Son is forgiven

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Rejoice and be thankful in all situations. (Joyfulness)

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Story: Mary’s song of Praise when visited by the Angel

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Be like a servant to others. (Humility)

“Always be humble and gentle...” Ephesians 4:2

Story: Jesus washes His disciple’s feet

Christian values based on the life and teachings of Jesus are the foundation upon which we build.'

Our School Motto: 'Building each other up - with God as firm foundation.' (1Thessalonians 5: 11)

Our Vision: 'We are building the Kingdom of God as we radiate Christian Values of honesty, forgiveness, trust, humility, courage, joyfulness and togetherness in our lives, our school and our community.'

Spirituality: 'The belief that there is something bigger than ourselves - which we reach out to and which we can receive from. Things that are spiritual come from our heart and ultimately lead us to a place of peace.'

Christian Rainbow Values:

Value	Colour	Season	Teaching / Action	Bible
Togetherness	Red	Start of the term Pentecost	Be who you were made to be and live and love in harmony together. Oneness not sameness.	"Let all that you do be done in love". 1 Corinthians 16: 14 Story - Ruth and Naomi
Trust	Orange	Advent Lent	Trust, have faith and keep persevering.	"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths". Proverbs 3 5-6 Story: Abraham and Sarah waiting patiently for a child
Honesty	Yellow	New Year Lent	Be true to yourself, others and God.	"Do that which is honest." 2 Corinthians 13: 7 Story: Zacchaeus giving back the money he stole
Courage	Green	Christian Aid Week Fairtrade Fortnight	Be fair. Do the right thing, not the easy thing.	"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go". Joshua 1: 9 Story: Footprints in the sand, The Starfish
Forgiveness	Blue	Easter	Learn from your mistakes - there is always a fresh start.	"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 32 Story: The Prodigal Son is forgiven
Joyfulness	Indigo	Harvest End of the school year Pentecost	Rejoice and be thankful in all situations.	"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Story: Mary's song of Praise when visited by the Angel
Humility	Violet	Christmas Holy Week	Be like a servant to others.	"Always be humble and gentle..." Ephesians 4:2 Story: Jesus washes His disciple's feet

