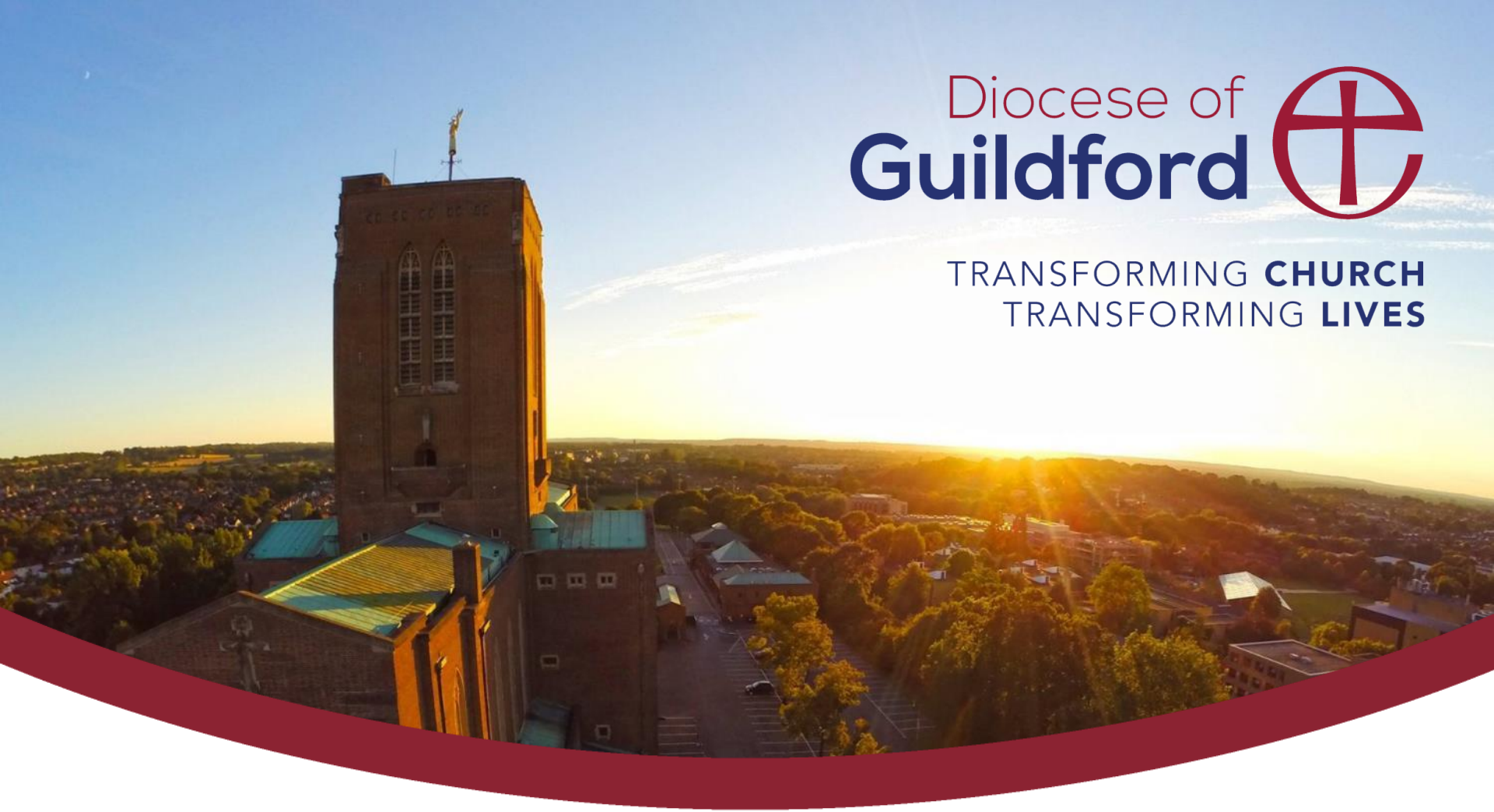






TRANSFORMING **CHURCH**  
TRANSFORMING **LIVES**



## **Christian Distinctiveness**

### **St Paul's CE Primary School Dorking**

Jane Whittington  
May 2019

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- **Church schools for the community, not faith schools for the faithful.**

- Nigel Genders Chief Education Officer for the Church of England
- December 2016





# Church of England Vision for Education

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July 2016

***Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good***

**Educating for Life in all its Fullness**

- By educating for:
- **Wisdom**, knowledge and skills
- **Hope** and aspiration
- **Community** and living well together
- **Dignity** and respect

# Church of England Vision for Education is..

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- for the common good of the whole community and its environment, whether national, regional or local.
- hospitable to diversity, respects freedom of religion and belief, and encourages others to contribute from the depths of their own traditions and understandings.
- a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigour, but sets them in a wider framework.

# Religious Education: The law

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- Religious Education must be provided for all pupils of statutory school age in all maintained schools.
- Voluntary Aided Schools such as St Paul's have to deliver RE in accordance with the school's designated religion or denomination.
- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE.



# Collective Worship: The Law

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## The law states that:

- **Daily worship must be provided**
- in all County and Church Schools
- for all pupils, every day

## It may be:

- at any time of day
- in any grouping (but not religious\*)
- in school, in church or any appropriate place, this includes outside and on school visits



# Interpreting the law:

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- **‘...wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character...’**
  - ‘not every act need comply’
  - majority should be ‘broadly’ Christian
- **‘...reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief...’**
  - not denominational
  - can be linked with values
- **‘....an opportunity for pupils to worship....’ (1/94)**
  - ‘invitational’, if pupils / staff choose to
  - ‘religious’ or spiritual elements
  - prayer





# Right of withdrawal:

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- Parents have the right to withdraw their children
- Teachers have the right to withdraw from attending in community & VC Church Schools but this may not apply in Aided Schools



# Collective Worship is expected to be

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- Inclusive, invitational and inspiring
- An expression of the school's Christian vision.
- Diocese of Guildford Guidance can be found on the website [here](#).



# The Diocese of Guildford expect

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- That the school has a Christian vision and values which underpin all areas of school life.
- That faith and belief: be that Christian, other faiths and world views are valued.
- That the school curriculum includes opportunities for spiritual development.
- That RE is treated as a core subject.

# The Diocese of Guildford expect

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- The school and the local church to have a mutually beneficial relationship.
- That the school regards collective worship as a vital part of the school day, both in the main Collective Worship also grace before meals , reflections times and prayer areas
- The school to mark key moments in the year, national, or international events with acts of prayer or reflection .

# The Diocese of Guildford encourage:

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- Pupil faith, spirituality or worship teams.
- Prayer groups to support the school.
- Prayer spaces in schools for pupils and staff to engage with as they wish.
- Visits to places of worship, including those of other faiths.
- Pupils to be given opportunities learn about themselves as their role as global citizens.

# SIAMS Inspection. Asks one question

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- **How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?**



Is this a **good**  
Church  
school?



# Seven strands:

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- Strand 1: Vision and Leadership
- Strand 2 : Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
- Strand 3: Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
- Strand 4: Community and Living Well Together
- Strand 5: Dignity and Respect
- Strand 6: The impact of collective worship
- Strand 7: The effectiveness of religious education





# CHRISTIAN DISTINCTIVENESS



At St Paul's School

# What should this look like at St Paul's?

- What did SIAMS say we need to develop? This is the external barometer that determines what drives our foci with regard to our Christian distinctiveness. Our most recent inspection was September 2017. We have five years to develop these areas.

## **Areas to improve**

- 1. Christian Vision and Values** – *“Continue to revise and develop the school’s Christian vision and values so that they pervade every aspect of school life.”*
- 2. Spirituality** – *“Embed a shared definition and understanding of spirituality to ensure that pupils can deepen their experience as they progress through the school.”*
- 3. The teaching of RE** – *“Develop RE teaching by considering the use of more open questioning and focused formative assessment.”*
- 4. Collective Worship** – *“Increase pupils’ involvement in planning and leading collective worship.”*

# 1. Developing our Christian Values and Vision...

## St Paul's School Values

### Trust

***"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you"***  
**Psalm 56:3**

The Christian message is that God can be trusted - we can put our faith in him and confidently rely on him to have our best interests at heart. Trust must be at the core of every healthy team and community: **it means we can feel safe.** At St Paul's school we learn how to earn the trust of others, how to be trusting and secure in our relationships, and how to rebuild trust when it is broken.

### Respect

***"Show respect for all people"***  
**1 Peter 2:17**

Because we believe that God created all people with equal worth and the highest value, we respect everyone equally. This means that it is important that we are **polite, kind, and appreciate each other.** We encourage everyone to have respect for themselves, **show dignity to all others, and care for our environment.**

# 1. Developing our Christian Values and Vision...

## St Paul's School Values

### Perseverance

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" **Philippians 4:13***

Because we believe that God helps us to grow, especially through challenges, we value perseverance. We have a vision for everyone at St Paul's **being lifelong learners; trying their best, enduring in tough times, being open to new experiences.** In order to flourish, we aim to support every child with the diverse challenges of everyday life.

### Hope

*"May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you" **Psalms 33:22***

We believe that God never gives up on us, his forgiveness is a gift and He gives us hope for the future. This means that at St Paul's **obstacles and wrongdoing do not have the last word, and good things can come from any bad situation.** We seek to be a community of hope and aspiration that inspires and motivates every child to live their life to the full."

# 1. Developing our Christian Values and Vision...

## St Paul's School Values

### Compassion

*"All of you – be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" 1 Peter 3:8*

Christians believe that compassion means 'to suffer with' and we learn compassion from Jesus, the suffering Saviour. Within our school we value compassion as it **builds empathy, allowing us to connect with others sensitively and with understanding.** When we learn how to give and receive compassion, everyone is able to grow.

### Wisdom

*"Respect for the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" Proverbs 9:10*

We believe that educating children to be wise is more important than teaching them to be clever. **Wise people are discerning,** they understand right from wrong and with integrity make God-honouring choices.

We pursue wisdom through nurturing a deep understanding of self, family, community, the world and God.



# St Paul's School Vision

## Rich Curriculum

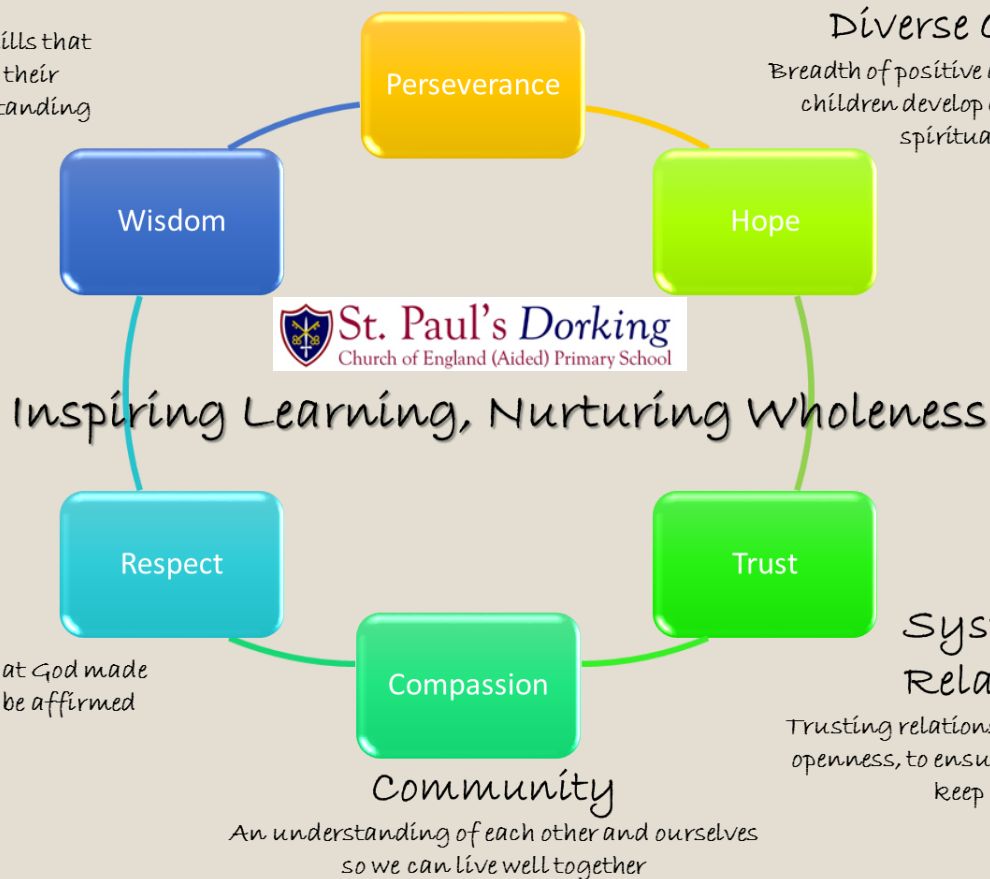
A balance of knowledge and skills that facilitate making links within their learning, with a shared understanding about how to learn well (4Rs)



Good basic skills teaching  
High Expectations enabling all to achieve their best through a love of learning.

## Diverse Opportunities

Breadth of positive and enjoyable experiences so children develop creatively, academically, spiritually and socially



## Uniqueness

Through all we do, we recognise that God made each person unique and this will be affirmed in our community

## Systems and Relationships

Trusting relationships allow for clarity and openness, to ensure processes are followed to keep everyone safe

## Community

An understanding of each other and ourselves so we can live well together

## 2. Developing Spirituality

OFSTED define the development of spirituality as an

ability to **be reflective** about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that **inform their perspective on life** and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values

sense of **enjoyment and fascination in learning** about themselves, others and the world around them

use of **imagination and creativity** in their learning

willingness to **reflect** on their experiences.

**Spiritual Development is like a doughnut**



**At St Paul's**



**windows**

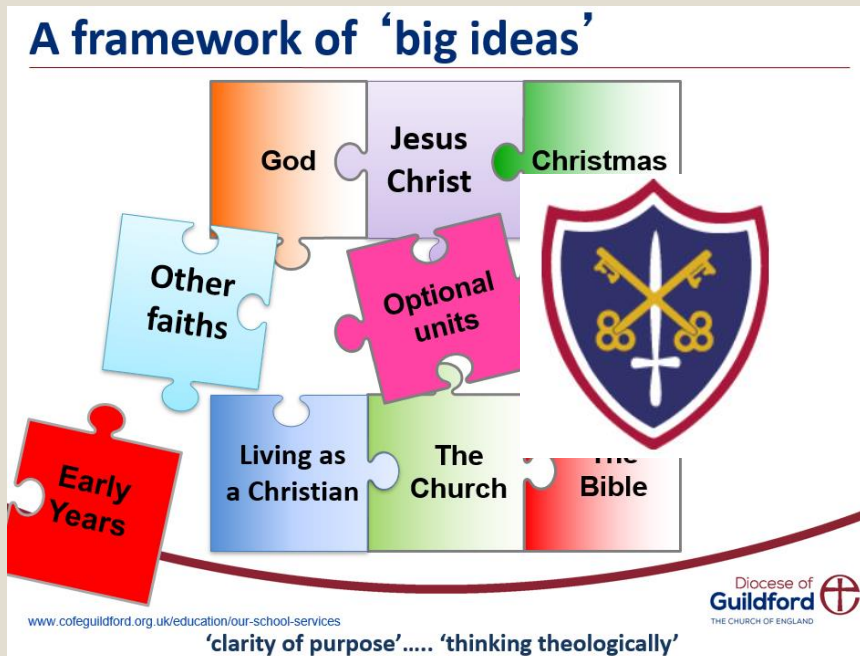


**mirrors**



**doors**

### 3. Developing RE at St Paul's



Using our enquiry questions and the concepts of 'windows', 'mirrors' and 'doors' we are developing our open ended questioning.

# 4. Developing Collective Worship



**Half Termly Themes**



**Different ways to gather daily**



**Time 'set apart'**



**children's faith team**



**Supported by the clergy from St Paul's**