

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What are St Paul's School's Christian Values?***

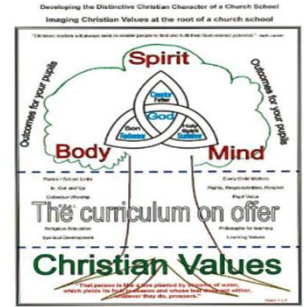
Trust, Wisdom, Perseverance, Respect, Compassion and Hope. These values underpin the basis of all learning.

### ***What is St Paul's School's vision statement?***

Inspiring Learning, Nurturing wholeness

### ***Why should church schools be different?***

All church schools have a deed that is a statement of purpose from its foundation. St Paul's deed states "for the education of children and adults or children only of the labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes in the ecclesiastical district"



### ***Why do you have Collective Worship every day?***

The law states (from the Education Acts of 1944, 1988, 1993 and 1996) that daily worship must be provided in **all** schools (not just Church schools) and it should be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. It should reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief and be an opportunity for pupils to worship. Collective Worship is the beating heart of our Christian Distinctiveness. It takes place every day for all children. It often explores a Christian Value, but it may also explore prayer, spirituality or a current issue. The consistent feature is that it is done through the lens of Jesus and his teaching. A large range of leaders are used regularly, from members of staff to local clergy. This rich approach further supports children in forming their own personal spirituality and beliefs.

### ***Are Church schools inspected in the same way as non-Church schools?***

All schools are inspected by OFSTED but all church schools also have a second inspection process (meeting the requirement of Section 48 of the Education Act 2005) called SIAMS (Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools) and both of these inspections are funded through the Department for Education. Both inspection processes give a judgement and identify strengths and areas for improvement.

### ***Does a church school teach evolution?***

Yes, it is stated in the Year 5 and 6 science curriculum. "Pupils should be taught to recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago, recognise that living things produce offspring of the same kind, but normally offspring vary and are not identical to their parents and identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution."

### ***What is a church school's view on LGBT issues?***

While Christians may hold a variety of theological views around human sexuality, all church schools must act in accordance with the 2010 Equalities Act. This act is also the basis for our Relationship and Sex education with an emphasis on the quality of relationships and that different families will have different make ups and that a family is a home rooted in love. The school needs to meet pastoral needs and if any unhelpful behaviour is identified, it will deal with any sort of bullying in this context too. The Church of England Education Office has produced a document called Valuing All God's Children: Guidance for Church of England schools on challenging homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying (Autumn 2017).

### ***Does the RE curriculum include other religions?***

In a Church school RE is a core subject. The RE curriculum is determined by the Diocese and is focused on developing pupils' subject knowledge, understanding and skills. 80% of RE at KS1 should be on Christianity and 20% on other faiths and at KS 2 70% of RE should be on Christianity and 30% on other faiths, including world views. The Diocesan Guidance for RE are similar to the revised Surrey Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. The guidelines allow pupils to appropriately deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, whilst engaging with religious diversity at a local, national and global level. In all schools RE should be taught for 5% of curriculum time and in church schools this is the minimum requirement. The Diocesan expectation is that it should be nearer to 10% of curriculum time. Making a difference? A review of Religious Education in Church Schools September 2014 identified that '...where RE was most effective, the primary purpose to develop pupils' expertise in understanding religious belief, their religious literacy, was the context for wider goals of fostering their personal development, nurturing a search for meaning & encountering the Christian faith....'

### ***Do we have a choice about this?***

All aspects of collective worship are invitational and children are invited to participate in ways they feel comfortable. They are offered opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. In a church school, the RE and Collective Worship is distinctly Christian, and parents should speak to their child's class teacher or the RE leader if they wish for greater clarity with regard to specific topics or aspects of learning. If there are concerns, it is hoped that a solution would be found through discussion and clarity of content. However if a solution can not be found a parent has the right to withdraw their child from all or part of RE and Collective Worship.

### ***The Diocese encourages schools to have a parent prayer group, what is this?***

Both community and church schools often have a group of Christian parents who wish to pray for the school. This group would meet monthly and using information from the newsletter, pray for aspects of school life. They may meet on the school site, but not necessarily, and will not pray with the children.