



Welcome to  
**CHRIST CHURCH  
& SAINT PETER'S  
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
MOUNTSORREL

**AIMING HIGH AND CARING FOR EVERYONE**

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Aiming High and Caring for Everyone

Enabling children to flourish and succeed.

# Our vision



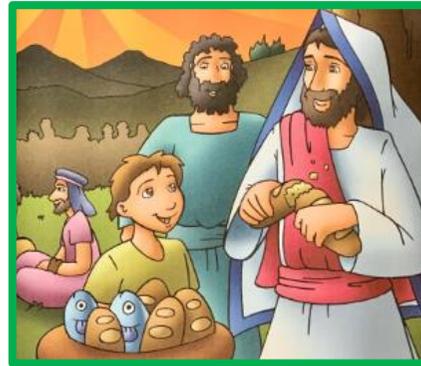
At Christ Church & St. Peter's Church of England Primary School our vision is,

**'Aim high, care for everyone'**

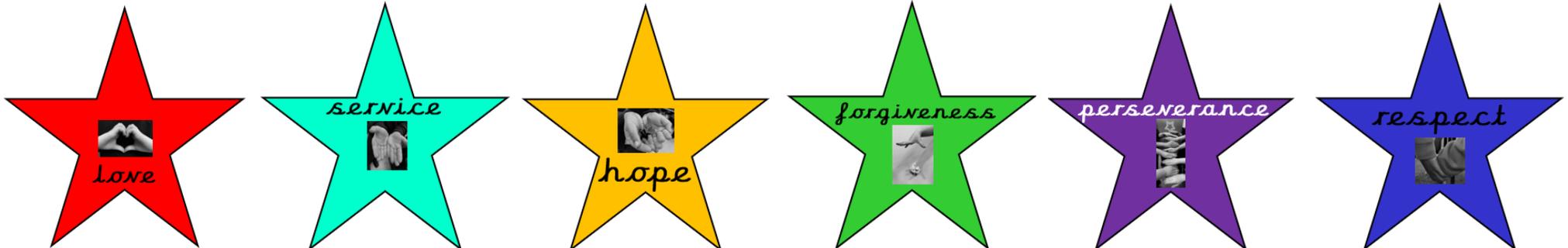
creating a school which is,

**'a place to belong'.**

Our vision is deeply embedded across the school, rooted in our Christian foundation and embodied in the account of **The Feeding of the Five Thousand**,  
Matthew 14:13-21.



We have adopted six core Christian values which we focus on half termly: **love, service, hope, forgiveness, perseverance and respect**. Valuing all of our children, treating them as equals, we strive to support all of our pupils to reach their full potential.



*Our school aims to be a Christian community in which children, parents, teachers and other adults, in partnership together, create an environment which encourages a life-long love of learning in which everyone is valued in an atmosphere of security, mutual respect and care, enjoyment and equality of opportunity for all.*

Who are we?



CHRIST CHURCH  
& SAINT PETER'S  
CofE PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
MOUNTSORREL



Christ Church and St Peter's Church of England Primary school is a larger than average primary school serving the town of Mountsorrel. It is a (formerly) voluntary controlled primary school within the Diocese of Leicester family. Our school is part of Rise Multi Academy Trust, joining as a sponsored academy back in 2014.

We have 405 pupils on roll (at time of publication) from 4 years to 11 years (primary). The school has a proactive Governing Committee that serves the Trust, Board of Trustees. Governors are advocates for the school with decision making held by Trustees, through a Scheme of Delegation.

Mountsorrel has predominately a white, British population. There are pockets of significant deprivation in the town. We have a slightly higher than average number of pupils receiving free school meals and a higher-than-average number of children with Special Educational Needs. We are also proud to have opened one of Leicestershire's first SEMH specialist designated provisions which we call The Nest. This is a 10-place unit for pupils with an Education, Health Care Plan for their Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH).

The school has very close partnerships with the Churches that are its name's sake but also with churches of all denominations in the village. The school is at the heart of the community, playing an active role in community life, through partnerships with the Parish Council, local Youth Work teams, charities and so on.



# What are we doing here?

Our vision at Christ Church and St Peter's Church of England Primary School is firmly rooted in and grows from the Diocese of Leicester's educational vision, 'Transforming the lives of children and young people through effective, distinctive, rooted and inclusive education'. Our vision grows from the Rise Multi Academy Trust's vision, 'Enabling children to flourish and succeed' and is promoted and developed through Our Character Education (see image). Through our Character Education Policy, we can show how these visions link together as well as all of the work we do in school to ensure our children, 'Aim high, caring for everyone'.

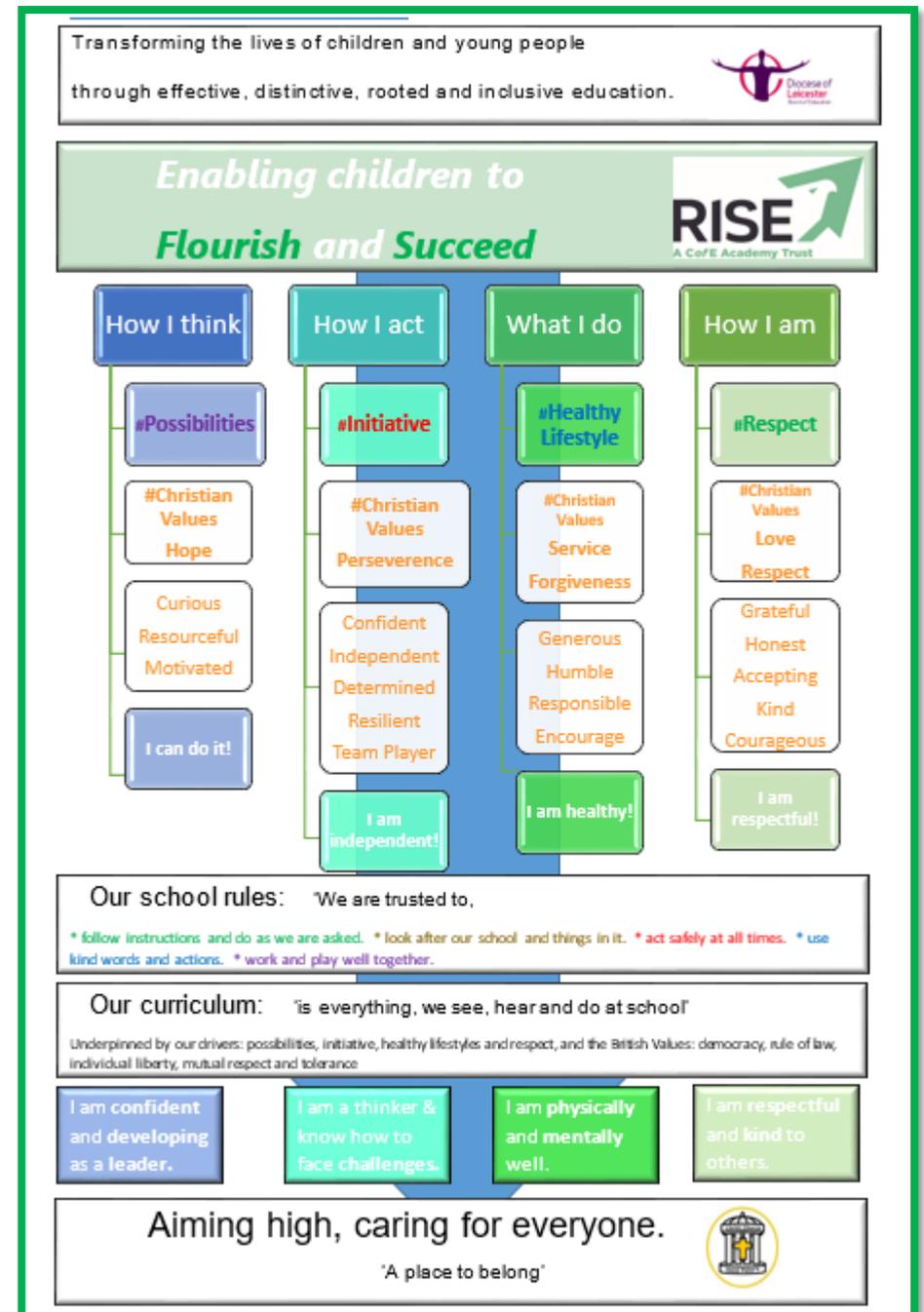
Our vision, 'Aim high, caring for everyone' creating, 'a place to belong' is deeply embedded across the school, rooted in our Christian foundation and embodied in the account of **The Feeding of the Five Thousand**, Matthew 14:13-21. A story about how God took something small to do something big: he aimed high and cared for everyone- leaving no-one out, they all belonged!

We have carefully considered the specific needs of our community and woven them into our Character Education through the drivers that underpin our curriculum which is 'everything we see, hear and do at school'. Our drivers of: Initiative, Possibilities, Healthy Lifestyles and Respect complement and work with our Christian Values in developing our vision.

We aim for all of our policies and aims to be lived and breathed not just paying them lip service:



**Promoting 'good' character is built from strong roots, not just by painting the leaves.**



School leaders work closely with local churches. The school has nominated governors along with the Chair of Trustees for the Trust, to evaluate our Christian distinctiveness. Both the local incumbent, and the Baptist minister, are members of the school's governing body supporting well-being (children and staff), and Christian distinctiveness. Leaders from the Church of England, Baptist and Methodist churches work with the Collective Worship leader termly to plan the Collective Worship for the coming term. Members of the churches lead collective worship weekly, in school. This ensures that the churches and school know what is happening and are able to take part in joint initiatives. For Lent 2023, we jointly created a project instead of following a national initiative. Children's groups at Christ Church follow the same plan in Messy church and members of the congregation are informed through the weekly newsletter thus, creating a cohesive link.

Our collective worship is organised through termly themes and different foci which enable our school community to grow spiritually. Over the last year, we have used a mixture of themes; some with a specific religious base such as 'The Lord's Prayer; some reflecting a theme common to all religions such as 'Values'; and some concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as 'caring and sharing'. In our Collective Worship, we provide opportunities for prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection. There are short resources for families to share which summarise the week's main themes and have an opportunity for prayer and reflection.

One of our children begins our Collective Worship by lighting a candle and saying a short liturgy. This has added to the sense of occasion and helps to bring stillness and reflection. The main Christian festivals are celebrated; Harvest is led by Year 5 in Christ Church, a school Christmas service is held at Christ Church along with many opportunities led by pupils from Foundation to Year 2 to tell the Christmas story and to share together, here in school and with family and community members. Year 6 also lead Lessons and Carols at St. Peter's. Year 6 also lead Remembrance for the village at St. Peter's and at The War Memorial. We are honoured each year to lay wreaths and crosses on behalf of significant community members. Easter is celebrated together, led by Year 4 children.

In academic year 2022-23 we widened the range of religions to be studied to include Judaism in line with the new Agreed syllabus. Towards the end of the year, in each year group, children study a unit with a theme which draws on the faiths studied. These thematic units offer children the opportunity to understand major world religions and worldviews and their impact on society and culture.

Pupils are given opportunities to discuss and describe different philosophies and approaches to life through a range of religious and non-religious beliefs. The school works with others across Leicester DBE and Rise Academy Trust to ensure good and best practice is shared and developed. This helps to ensure a rich, deep knowledge-based curriculum for pupils and that staff are supported with delivering high quality first teaching in lessons.



# How then shall we live?

How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision enable pupils and adults to flourish?

***Our vision: Aiming high, caring for everyone, is built from strong roots, not just by painting the leaves.***

'Aiming high, caring for everyone'

is a vision that is lived and breathed throughout the school community.

In June 2023, Ofsted wrote, *The school's motto, 'We aim high, caring for everyone', is evident in all aspects of school life.*



*This is a school with a big heart that embraces children and makes them feel safe, happy and welcome.*

All leaders in school articulate a distinctively Christian vision for the school, which is underpinned by a love of God and love for each other. Christian care for vulnerable pupils is clearly evident through the deployment of staff and the energy invested by staff in ensuring the individual needs of all children are met.

The school is a truly inclusive school and has been recognised as going 'above and beyond' for its pupils and families. The school works with local, community and national partners to ensure every child's unique needs are met. The school offers good support to families when necessary. Pupils are encouraged to live out their Christian values by taking responsibility for their own work and behaviour and by caring for each other.

The school has its own Inclusion Team, made up of a strong, highly skilled, teacher & learning mentor team which provides highly effective support, and where needed specialist provision, for pupils. Learning Mentors work with children with a range of needs and often more specifically, Social, Emotional & Mental Health needs (SEMH) issues and often where transition may be tricky or maybe where they have been excluded from previous settings. Their work also includes provision for pupils and families at the beginning of the day through a targeted breakfast club. This enables children to have a positive start to the day in a calm environment. Also, there is provision for pupils that find lunchtimes difficult through a lunchtime club which provides a quiet and encouraging space for children to have a break in their day. We have a purposefully designed space called The Space to meet the needs of our children and their families. It is called The Space as it can be any kind of space needed: a quiet reflection space, a safe space, a friendly space, a quiet space...

We also support families through bereavement. Our Learning Mentors are trained grief counsellors. Support is provided for as long as it is needed for both the surviving partners and children.

We have specially trained counsellors and therapists as part of our Inclusion Team and work closely with other partners such as the Education Mental Health Team and the Violence Reduction Network.

The school works closely with The Soar Valley Food Project and has recently installed a Community Freezer.



We are proud to have opened and developed, The Nest which is a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) provision for young people with an Education and Health Care Plan. This specialist provision opened (working with the LA) at the end of August 2019 and supports the needs of up to 10 learners. There is a clear ambition and vision for all pupils. **Nurture:** Supporting pupils to make relationships, learning about themselves and others whilst gaining skills for life. **Engage:** Delivering an individualised curriculum for the needs of each pupil in order for them to develop their talents and flourish through play and discovery. **Safety:** A secure environment allowing children to take risks, understand boundaries and to feel part of the Nest family. **Trust:** Working together with families and other agencies for the best outcomes of every individual.

Leaders are focused on school improvement. They have a clear understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development. Leaders and managers have a good understanding of the school's performance and distinctiveness based on the school's self-evaluation strategies.

The development plan for R.E. and Collective worship has been part of the main School Improvement Plan since spring 2016. Consequently, all members of the SLT and governing body have a shared understanding of our school priorities for the development of R.E. and collective worship. It puts Christian ethos at the heart of our school. Self-evaluation strategies lead directly to the school's improvement planning. As a result, achievement and distinctiveness have improved or previous good performance has been consolidated for all groups of learners.

Behaviour of pupils is good. As Ofsted write in June 2023, *Pupils know that staff expect them to behave well. Respect is an expectation of all.*

Racist, Sexist, Homophobic and other types of bullying incidents are rare.



## How does the curriculum reflect the school's theologically rooted Christian vision?

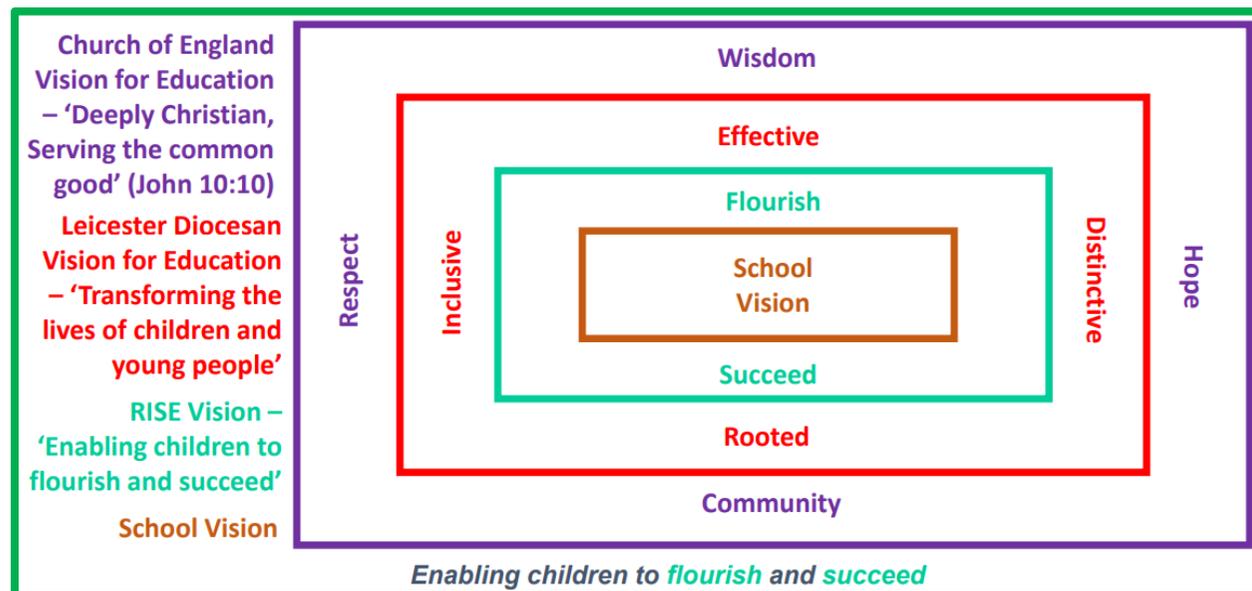
The school has an Interleaved/ thematic Curriculum which meets the needs of the children in Mountsorrel. It is firmly rooted in the school's drivers: Christian Values, Respect, Possibilities, Initiative and Healthy Living. These define our Curriculum Intent, and the content of the curriculum builds from there. See 'Our Interleaved Curriculum' overview on our website. Key 'big' questions, linked to these drivers, are asked and shared and answered with our children; these are displayed on our topic boards. During the last school inspection, June 2023, the inspector noted, 'The school provides pupils with a good quality of education. Leaders have constructed an ambitious, well-sequenced curriculum.'

The school is proactive in providing a range of interventions and a graduated response to needs of individuals and families. We have a team of highly skilled teaching assistants who benefit from regular training; using the provided materials to support areas identified with gaps from the PIRA and PUMA assessments, times tables, maths, writing, reading including Read, Write Inc and THRIVE.

All children take part in Collective Worship, Monday to Thursday in Key Stages and on Friday as a whole school. Children begin each Collective Worship time with a liturgy shared by and led by the children. There is always space and time for personal reflection and response to the topics and themes. Since 2022, children in KS2 have been able to be part of a lunchtime Collective Worship Leaders Club. These children lead a Collective Worship time each half term for both key stages.

Christ Church and St Peter's is a happy school, securely founded on Christian values. Overarching Christian values including love, service, hope, forgiveness, perseverance and respect lead to the development of strong characteristics of resilience and perseverance. Our values and drivers are the source of all we do at Christ Church & St. Peter's Church of England Primary school. They help our children to look up and out; to be aspirational in their own lives. We have designed our interleaved / thematic curriculum from these values and drivers (Christian values, healthy living, respect, possibilities and initiative). We also teach R.E. and P.S.H.E. as discrete subjects. This ensures that these areas are given high value, and the breadth of curriculum is covered in depth.

Being part of RISE MAT has helped to refine and ensure a consistent approach to the teaching of our curriculum. Members of the trust regularly visit our school to support, monitor and enhance our school curriculum.



## How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?

Collective Worship at Christ Church & St. Peter's C.E. school is a time to stop, to participate, to reflect and to grow by learning from the teaching of The Bible and other faith and non-faith stories. Monday to Thursday, this takes place in the phases. In these smaller groupings, the materials can be tailored for younger and older children and children can feel more confident about sharing their reflections.

The Collective Worship leader takes part in the online DBE Collective Worship half termly training. This has helped us as a school to reflect on our practice and to make small changes such as children sharing the liturgy.

Leaders from the Church of England, Baptist and Methodist churches work with the Collective Worship leader termly to plan the Collective Worship for the coming term. Every Tuesday, members of the churches lead collective worship in school. By working together as a community of faith, we share a vision for our children and have a shared responsibility for their spiritual development. We are also supported by Stephen Adshead, chair of Leicester Diocesan Board of Education and Jo Westaby, deputy director of Culture and Ethos at RISE MAT. They visit the school on a regular basis to discuss the work that we are doing in developing our Christian values and Character Education.

All children take part in collective worship. Children who need extra support to participate, are accompanied by an adult. One of the children begins our Collective Worship by lighting the candle and saying a short liturgy. This has added to the sense of occasion and helps to bring stillness and reflection. The main Christian festivals are celebrated; Harvest and Christmas in the school, at Christ Church and Y6 leading Lessons and carols at St. Peter's. Year 6 also lead Remembrance for the village at St. Peter's and at The War Memorial. Easter is celebrated together, led by Year 4 children through a moving re-enactment of the events.

The termly themes have different foci which enable our school community to grow spiritually. Over the last year we have used a mixture of themes; some with a specific religious base such as 'The Lord's Prayer'; some reflecting a theme common to all religions such as 'Values'; and some concerned with common values held by religious and non-religious people alike such as 'caring and sharing'. In our Collective Worship, we provide opportunities for prayer, stillness, worship, and reflection.

Since 2022, one of the family workers and the youth worker from Christ Church have run a lunchtime club for children wanting to plan and lead Collective Worship. Each half term, a small group of children have led the two Key Stage Collective Worship times. The children leading the Collective Worship have gained such a lot from the whole process.

The children and adults in CW have also responded positively; "I was very tearful and emotional. It was amazing." Chrissy W "I had goosebumps." Jo W

There are short resources for families to share which summarise the week's main themes and have an opportunity for prayer and reflection.

In February 2023, Year 1 children visited Christ Church as part of their work on Christian places of worship. Linda Vesty, one of the children and family workers, along with Kat Jenkins, the youth worker led a mini service to help children to appreciate how the parts of the church facilitate congregations to worship together.



## How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well?

We always have high expectations and standards while ensuring that all are cared for. Our Christian ethos is demonstrated through the Bible story of 'The Feeding of the Five Thousand', John 6 9 -12. Our children's courageous advocacy is seen by looking through the eyes of the young boy, and through the love of Jesus. We show RESPECT for those around us, ENJOY great success (aiming high), contributing and SERVING to provide and share with others, INCLUDE (and care for) everyone, PROTECTING those in need through courageous advocacy, and ENDEAVOURING to show compassion and kindness, a PLACE to BELONG by coming together, no matter who we are, and being family.

Christ Church and St Peter's is a school with a clear vision and securely founded on Christian values. It is a truly inclusive school with Christian values at its heart. Valuing all of our children, treating them as equals, we strive to support all of our pupils to reach their full potential. We work hard to develop, keep safe and nurture our children, supporting them (and their families) where we can in all aspects of their life during their schooling. Where children and families have barriers to completing homework at home, we provide opportunities to complete activities by attending Key Stage Homework clubs led by our assistant heads.

Through our Christian character our vision is for every child to flourish within the family of the school and to know that they are valued as individuals. This vision is closely linked to the Church of England Vision for Education, summarised as 'Deeply Christian, serving the common good', reflecting what Jesus said as recorded in John 10:10: "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full." From the very first contact with school, through visits to pre-schools, home visits and induction days, we aim to build relationships with all of the families in our school community. We continue this work through providing opportunities to come into school for Parents as Partners initiatives e.g. working with their children making Story Jars for World Book Day, for workshops, celebrations, productions and formal meetings. The work of the Inclusion Team and Outreach Worker also develop strong links with hard-to-reach families and those with particular needs. Our school is committed to being wholly inclusive, reflecting the vision of the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education (summarised as church schools being effective, distinctive, rooted and inclusive). We welcome families of all faiths and none, from a range of socio-economic contexts, with differing abilities, needs and beliefs. All characteristics are celebrated and protected.

We have a zero tolerance for bullying and address any issues as soon as they arise. We track and record behaviours to ensure that we do not miss any early signs of this type of behaviour.

Children recognise the Christian values and relate them to their knowledge of the life of Jesus. The children have a good knowledge of other faiths and communities through the wide-ranging R.E. curriculum. Consequently, they understand that other faiths should be respected.

The value which weaves through and unites our Christian values, school drivers and British values is Respect. The school community is united in respecting, understanding and celebrating difference and diversity. Our Interleaved Curriculum begins these core values. We help children to understand, respect and celebrate themselves, the local community and the wider world. To recognise, accept and celebrate the commonalities and the differences.



**#initiative #healthylifestyles #respect #possibilities #christianvalues**



Regardless of their own faith and belief, pupils develop a mature sense of spirituality. This nurtures their own spiritual journey and is evident in the wider curriculum. The child-centred curriculum and the use of the outdoor learning environment has enabled the children to share in the awe and wonder of the world God created.

'I am fearfully and wonderfully made.' Psalm 139 v14

## How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create an active culture of justice and responsibility?

Christ Church and St Peter's is a happy school, securely founded on Christian values. Overarching Christian values including, love, service, hope, forgiveness, perseverance and respect lead to the development of strong characteristics of resilience and perseverance. Our values and drivers are the source of all we do at Christ Church & St. Peter's Church of England Primary school. They help our children to look up and out; to be aspirational in their own lives. We have designed our interleaved / thematic curriculum from these values and drivers (Christian values, healthy living, respect, possibilities and initiative). We also teach R.E. and P.S.H.E. as discrete subjects. This ensures that these areas are given high value and the breadth of curriculum is covered in depth.

Our school rules help children to develop personal responsibility for the choices they make and to understand that our choices have consequences. The overarching statement for our rules is, 'We are trusted to...' The inclusion of Christian values in our behaviour system and celebration at the end of each half term has had a growing impact and contribution to the learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and to the Christian character of the school.

The school recognizes that some children and staff may find it more difficult to cope at times. The school has a team of mentors who work with children in small groups, one-to-one and in class to give children tools to grow in resilience, to persevere and overcome barriers. A play therapist gives more specialist support for children with specific emotional needs and difficulties. Together, they help children to take small steps to overcome barriers and develop resilience, to feel comfortable and safe in school when everything seems overwhelming.

The school also has a therapy dog, Bonnie, and one in training, Sandy. There are many benefits to having therapy dogs in school, the main one being the health and well-being of both pupils and staff alike. A dog has an immediate calming effect by just being near. As one of our Year 1 children said, "Just seeing Crumble (who retired at Easter) makes me smile and makes my day better straight away!" Having a dog in school benefits our children so much across the academic, personal and social areas of their lives. Spending time with Bonnie helps teach empathy and appropriate interpersonal skills, helps individuals develop social skills, can be soothing and helps to improve individual's skills to pick up social cues imperative to human relationships.

Children at Christ Church & St. Peter's Primary School have a deeply held understanding and empathy of need, deprivation, and disadvantage. They often ask members of staff if they can involve the other pupils in supporting others – One pupil inspired us to collect items for a Leicester Night Shelter, two families worked with us to provide essentials for people of Ukraine. We have supported charities working with victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. We also regularly support Mountsorrel Baptist Church (food Bank) through harvest and Lent gifts, The Poppy Appeal, LOROS – through the Fitness in school partnership, Christian Aid – Christmas Jumpers, JIA (juvenile idiopathic arthritis) – annually, Children in Need and Comic Relief Red Nose Day. Members of our community have also welcomed families from Ukraine and continue to support and befriend them.



## Is the religious education curriculum effective?

The quality of learning and engagement within RE are good. Learners are developing good knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religions and beliefs, improving their ability to answer questions of meaning and purpose. At Christ Church & St. Peter's Church of England Primary School there is a clear programme for each year group which has been developed using the 2022 Leicestershire Agreed R.E. syllabus. It provides an accessible and engaging curriculum which encourages pupils to think deeply and discuss big questions, pupils know and remember more of their R.E. learning because of this. Through books studies of Values Books, we hear pupils speak positively and confidently about their learning and sharing their work. The school gives pupils opportunities to visit their local churches and other places of worship to continue to develop understanding and respect of different faith communities.

In academic year 2022-23 we widened the range of religions to be studied to include Judaism in line with the new Agreed syllabus. EYFS, KS1 and KS2 study Christianity using the Understanding Christianity materials which are now part of the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus, Islam and Judaism. The Understanding Christianity materials help pupils to understand Christianity as a living faith. Each unit has a focus on making connections and understanding the impact which helps pupils to appreciate the impact of the texts on the lives of Christians today. KS2 also study Hinduism. Towards the end of the year, in each year group, children study a unit with a theme which draws on the faiths studied and none. These thematic units offer children the opportunity to understand major world religions and worldviews and their impact on society and culture.

Pupils are given opportunities to discuss and describe different philosophies and approaches to life through a range of religious and non-religious beliefs. The school works with others across Leicester DBE and RISE Trust to ensure good and best practice is shared and developed. This helps to ensure a rich, deep knowledge-based curriculum for pupils and that staff are supported with delivering high quality first teaching in lessons.

We are starting to reintroduce visiting places of worship from the Muslim, Jewish and Hindu traditions (with the support of The Mountsorrel Education Fund to reduce the cost to parents of these visits) as well as visiting the Baptist and Methodist churches within the village.

The school works with others across Leicestershire DBE, local groups and RISE Trust to ensure good and best practice is shared and developed to ensure a rich, deep knowledge-based curriculum for pupils and that staff are supported with delivering high quality first teaching in lessons. The R.E. leader attends local development group R.E. meetings and RISE Collective Worship meeting online.

Whole school systems for assessment are being developed through cumulative quizzes. Whether children are working at Age-Related Expectations for R.E. is recorded on individual pupil reports.

