



Christian Distinctiveness in EYFS

'With God all things are possible' Matthew 19:26

As a Church of England school, we work hard to develop and sustain the school's Christian distinctiveness. We work in close partnership with St Mark's Church and make regular visits as a school. Our school is founded upon core values of Perseverance, Courage Respect Trust and Friendship. To support our school values, the themes for Collective Worship are changed every half term and reflect the values to support the personal social, and emotional development of our children.

Religious Education is a core subject in the EYFS and is timetabled weekly. Children learn about Christianity using the 'Imaginar' programme of study. As a church school, although Christianity forms the major study in Religious Education lessons, we also learn about other religions and world views. As a result, our children gain a greater insight into the world in which they are growing up. They are also able to appreciate the faith of others and begin to develop an understanding of their own beliefs and practices. These outcomes contribute to harmonious relationships within and between communities, promoting social inclusion and combating prejudice.

Worship We have daily Collective Worship either as a EYFS unit or we join the whole school. This can be within school or at our community church. Children play an important part in contributing and sharing their thoughts and ideas in these discussions. We invite children to say a pray for anyone they feel are worthy or wish too.

Links with Parents and the Community: Every Friday we have a Collective Worship at St Mark's Church and parents are invited to join our songs and celebrations. We also visit the church to celebrate major Christian festivals which include Harvest, Easter and Christmas. Every year, we also hold a 'Church Week' where individual classes visit the church for specific teaching on different areas of Christian life.

Prayer: Children pray at the end of our daily Collective Worship and say a lunchtime prayer before going to eat. The children are also welcome to say or write a prayer whenever they feel is appropriate.

Our Environment: You will see a designated 'Reflection Area' within the setting where the half termly theme will be displayed and shared. This is an area the children can use freely to write or say a pray, to reflect on their thoughts and feelings, to explore faith and spiritually in a safe, creative and interactive way and to look back at our Special Floor Book of our Religious Education learning.

At Home: We share our half termly themes and Religious Education topics through our curriculum letter that are sent home. We also add a prayer to the whole school weekly newsletter. Home learning activities also include our Collective Worship themes and values with suggestions of activities or stories they can do together as a family.

We endeavour to inspire and motivate all children to the best that they can be, growing and learning in a community inspired by Christian Values.

'It is the belief in us from God that will enable us to dream, believe and achieve'

