

Our Christian Distinctiveness

Our School Vision

At Woodley CofE each person is unique and accepted as a child of God. Through strong Christian values, and our BRIGHT attitudes to learning, we inspire hearts and minds to create life-long learners, who have the skills, knowledge and understanding to shine brightly in the world.

“Let your light shine before others.” Matthew 5:16

Woodley CofE is a school which lies at the heart of its community where wellbeing is paramount and every child valued. We strive to deliver outstanding education, with excellent teaching and purposeful learning, and underpinned by Christian values and principles, we are an aspirational and caring school, devoted to ensuring local children realise their full potential.

Our Vision at Woodley CofE Primary School is to provide children with a high sense of achievement, confidence and strong moral values, developed through excellent teaching, a stimulating curriculum, and a robust Christian ethos.

What does it mean to be a Church School?

As a church school, Woodley CofE School aims to develop its religious character, respecting the principles of the Church of England and promoting Christian values through the experience we offer to all our pupils. We are fully inclusive to children and families of all faiths and those with no faith. We encourage our children to reflect, question, understand and live by these values, which we all agree are universal.

Christian Ethos

The school is one of the Diocese of Oxford's family of schools and is rooted in Christian traditions. We are committed to nurturing and developing children as rounded, spiritual human beings. Our core values are essential to the ethos of our school and help us to live our vision.

- Love
- Peace
- Truth
- Respect
- Freedom
- Friendship

There is a large sign in our central area displaying all core values for everyone to see.

Daily collective worship, prayer and reflection

An act of collective worship happens daily. These are generally Christian in content and are supported through the Roots and Fruits worship books. Each worship session focuses either on an agreed theme for the term or explore our Core Values in more depth.

The worship sessions are different in style each day and include:

- Whole School Worship
- Class Reflections/Space Makers
- Celebration Worship
- Minister's Worship
- Singing Worship

Worship sessions are led by a number of different people including school staff, children, local ministers and representatives from our local churches. There are opportunities for children to support with the planning and evaluation of worship sessions. Collective worship provides space for children to pray, reflect, sing, celebrate, and ponder big questions. Children are invited to join and contribute their own prayers daily.

How can you tell we are a Church School?

Our school vision is evident to all as soon as they walk into school. The lamps in the entrance are a visual representation of the bible quote to "Let your light shine before others". The lights represent each child as they shine in their community. This extends to each classroom; each child is a flame around a candle encouraging children to see themselves as lights. Additionally, our central area hosts a poster with our vision displayed clearly for all to see.

Each classroom is set up with a Church School board containing:

- A cross
- The vision
- The term's core value focus
- Class Spirituality Book
- A Bible
- Wobble box
- Class Prayer book

It is a space in the classroom for children to share work around our core values and contribute prayers written for lunch and the end of the day.

There is a prayer board by the entrance to the school. This displays a range of prayers, poems and reflections written by children throughout the school. Additionally, the Reflection Garden is open weekly for children to attend. This provides space in the school week for children of all ages to think, pray and ask questions. The main focus is prayer and children of all faiths and none are welcome in the Reflection Garden.

The School follows the Church Calendar. As such, certain Christian festivals are celebrated. These include: Harvest, Christmas, Easter. Each phase takes part in special services at St John's the Evangelist Church to which parents are invited. The school is also well supported by other local churches including Woodley Baptist, the Airfield and Emmanuel Church and St James Church.

Each week there is a church school update in our Friday Update communication to parents.

Religious Education

RE lessons are a time for big questions, discussion and reflection. During our two-year cycle, children visit other places of worship as part of the RE curriculum. RE lessons are inclusive and teach about Christianity and other religions in line with the Understanding Christianity and RE Discovery schemes.