



The Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham is committed to joining together in the transforming mission of God and growing disciples wider, younger and deeper. Central to this mission is the work that goes on in its church schools. As the central Church of England vision for education reminds us, the ethos in our schools should be built on a deeply Christian foundation that is about an offer of human flourishing for all and which takes seriously the promise of Jesus of "life in all its fullness" John 10, v 10

In our diocese, as we have visited church schools and experienced first-hand their life and day to day activities, it has become clear that this vision can be worked out if we seek to provide schools that are



Distinctive, Inclusive, Effective and Rooted. Work has been done by members of the education team looking at what the hallmarks are of schools in our diocese that truly exhibit these qualities. We hope that the practical example given in this leaflet will act as an inspiration and guide to church school leaders, governors, staff, clergy, chaplains and lay volunteers to further

develop the Christian ethos in their schools and, in turn, bring transformation to the lives of children and young people today as they encounter Christian faith in action.

**Claire Meese**  
**Diocesan Director of Education**

A statement of how we live out the diocesan vision in church schools & academies...



We seek for Church of England Schools and Academies to be:

**Distinctive, Inclusive, Effective & Rooted**  
**Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good**

## Distinctive

Having a Christian ethos based on living worship and creating a sense of belonging with a curriculum framework offering opportunities for God and faith to be discussed openly.

Signs of Christian distinctiveness will be:

**Engaging collective worship** at the heart of school life, offering opportunities to Explore, Encounter and Experience the Christian faith.

**Relevant religious education** occupying a central place in the curriculum and offering

*opportunities to deepen understanding of others' faith and beliefs, achieve academic success and develop spiritually.*

**A respectful atmosphere** that encourages and allows faith and the big questions of life to be discussed openly and without apology within the curriculum and in 'safe spaces' provided in the



*school environment. Visionary leadership that promotes the Christian ethos of the school seeking the best for all pupils and valuing the contribution of all*

“ You are the light of the world. A town on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl instead they put it on a stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. ”  
(Matthew 5:14-16)

## Inclusive

Serving local communities by being open to children of all backgrounds, irrespective of ethnicity, faith or family situation; nurturing those of the Christian faith and welcoming those of other faiths and none.

Inclusive schools will:

**Welcome all** and give them the opportunity to understand and experience the Christian faith which inspires and motivates the school.

**Value everyone** recognising that they are made in the image of God and loved by Him.

**Build community** and create a strong sense of belonging amongst pupils, staff and parents by modelling faith in action



*through positive relationships Celebrate the achievements and contributions of all*

“ Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me. ”  
(Mark 9:37)

## Effective

Seeking justice by working to ensure an excellent education for all pupils.

Effective schools will be committed to:

**Pupils making the best academic progress they**



*can across the curriculum Holistic development of pupils providing intentional opportunities for them to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally so they can relate positively to themselves, other people, the world around them and God.*

**Responsible citizenship** by actively encouraging pupils to contribute to the life of the school and wider community by developing



*attitudes of service to others Working with other partners to ensure that all pupils have access to high quality educational experiences.*

“ I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. ”  
(John 10:10)

## Rooted

In Christian values and the rich faith background of the Church of England, enabling pupils to flourish as human beings and grow as disciples.

Rooted schools will seek to:

**Live out Christian values** in all aspects of school life **Bring to life prayer, liturgy and the sacraments** in the life of the school

**Offer a personal encounter** with the person and life of Jesus Christ **Build firm foundations** throughout the school based on the teachings of Jesus in the bible



“ Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ”  
(Matthew 7:24)

“Church schools are as concerned as any other school to equip pupils for lives marked by rapid change, global competition and insecurity. But church schools know in their viscera that this is not just about acquiring skills and good examination results, they are also about forming people who have the moral strength and spiritual depth to hold on to a course and weather the ups and downs of life.”

(George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury)