



Central to the diocesan vision of growing disciples wider, younger and deeper is the work and ministry that goes on in 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, which takes seriously the promise of Jesus of "life in all its fullness" John 10 v 10. It is about a broad holistic education that is underpinned by the four strands of wisdom, hope, community and dignity.

The Christian ethos in our diocesan schools should also provide opportunities for children to grow and deepen their discipleship.

As we have visited church schools across the diocese and experienced



first-hand their life and day to day activities we have come across lots of schools that in different ways are living out this kind of ethos. The information and practical examples in this leaflet aim to act as an inspiration and guide to governors, church school leaders, staff, clergy, chaplains and lay volunteers. It also provides a framework for school leaders to develop their own distinctively Christian vision, which in

turn will bring transformation to the lives of children and young people as they encounter Christian faith in action.

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Growing Disciples Wider Younger Deeper

Board of Education Vision Statement



A statement of how the Church of England Vision for Education "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good" is lived out across schools and academies in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

Educating for wisdom, knowledge & skills

Providing a curriculum and experiences that secure transformational outcomes for children and young people by combining academic rigour with a focus on profound personal development.

Schools that educate for wisdom, knowledge and skills will:-

- enable pupils to make the best possible progress they can across all areas of the curriculum so they can flourish intellectually, physically and creatively and develop

all their God given talents

- create a climate for learning that nurtures confidence, values the development of life skills and fosters a delight in learning and discovery

and will deepen faith by:

- promoting the holistic development of pupils by providing intentional opportunities for them to develop the moral strength, spiritual depth and emotional resilience to make sound judgements and weather the ups and downs of life



- including within their curriculum framework, opportunities and space for God, faith and the big questions of life, to be discussed openly and honestly

“ Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding for the gain is better than the gain from silver and profit better than gold. ”
Proverbs 3:15

Educating for hope & aspiration

Welcoming all, especially those who are disadvantaged and giving everyone the opportunity to understand, experience and respond to the Christian faith which inspires and motivates the school and opens up new horizons of hope.

Schools that educate for hope and aspiration will:-

- find ways of overcoming barriers to learning so that all pupils flourish

and will deepen faith by:-

- placing engaging collective worship at the heart of school life, offering opportunities to explore and experience Christian faith and offering the chance for a personal encounter with the person of Jesus Christ
- exploring biblical teaching about grace and healing and helping pupils to learn the skills to cope wisely with things and people going wrong; developing a lived understanding of justice, forgiveness, repair and renewal



- supporting pupils to develop a resilience that is based on knowledge and understanding of themselves as unique human beings, loved by God and created with a unique purpose, only they can fulfil

“ For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you hope and a future. ”
Jeremiah 29:11

Educating for respect & dignity

Building an environment in the school in which everyone is valued, recognising that each individual is made in the image of God and loved by him so that they can learn to relate positively to themselves, other people, the world around them and God

Schools that educate for respect and dignity will:-

- work with other partners to ensure that pupils of all backgrounds and abilities have access to high quality educational

experiences

- celebrate the achievements and contributions of all

and widen opportunities for discipleship by:-

- serving local communities through being open to children of all backgrounds irrespective of ethnicity, faith, gender, sexuality or family situation; nurturing those of the Christian faith and welcoming those of other faiths and none
- teach relevant religious education and



give it a central place in the curriculum so that pupils can deepen their understanding of Christianity and others' faiths and beliefs, achieving academic success and develop spiritually

“ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ”
Galatians: 3:28

Educating for community & living well together

Giving children, staff and parents the opportunity to experience being part of a community which creates a strong sense of belonging based on Christian values and rooted in Christian beliefs and practices.

Schools that educate for community and living well together will:-

- maintain a core focus on supporting and building positive relationships and developing the qualities of character that enable

people to flourish together.

- actively encourage students to contribute to the life of the school and wider community and in so doing develop attitudes of service to others
- promote positive citizenship by enabling pupils to recognise that they can be ambassadors for change and contribute to society both now as young people and in the future

and widen opportunities for discipleship by:



• forging strong relationships with local churches in a way that strengthens the life of the school and draws on the rich faith background of the Church of England bringing to life prayer, liturgy and the sacraments

“ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your minds and with all your strength and Love your neighbour as yourself. ”
Luke 10:27