

Christian ethos

As a Church of England School, St Chad's has a distinctly Christian ethos, which underpins everything that we do here. This ethos includes a culture of understanding and tolerance and children of all religions and faiths thrive in our setting.

The foundations of our Christian ethos are the termly values, which are shared and promoted across the school: peace, thankfulness, compassion, friendship, truthfulness, respect and reverence, perseverance, service and responsibility. While promoted throughout the school week, the children are specifically taught about these values during their daily collective worship. These sessions include assemblies taken by members of the church, KS1 and KS2 assemblies, singing assemblies and class assemblies. These sessions are usually based on a biblical story, involve chances for children to reflect on how they can embody the value and include time for children to pray at the end. These values have a prominent place physically in the school with a hall display and displays in every classroom. These displays are built on and developed as children add their work, prayers and reflections from their class assemblies.

As a school, we aim to provide the opportunity for self-reflection and prayer to all the children. Each classroom includes a reflection area and a prayer book, which the children add to throughout the year. On a termly basis, the School Council create a display in the playground which reflects the term's value and the area surrounding it is set aside as a quiet and peaceful area. Additionally, the Prayer Garden provides a quiet place in school for children to create their own prayers or read those of other children. The children also join together for prayer several times a day including before lunch and in collective worship sessions. Weekly Prayer Space sessions allow children a chance to explore the value and purpose of prayer and to complete activities designed to help them to reflect and to pray.

Religious education

Religious Education has a key role in our school and is vital in promoting tolerance, understanding and respectful debate. The weekly lessons for all children from Year 1 to Year 6 provide a chance to understand the practises and beliefs of a range of key world religions and faiths. While we are a Church of England school, RE is not an opportunity to convince children to convert to a particular religion but a chance to promote understanding and inclusion.

To encourage discussion, each term is based around a Big Question and each session is based around a Key Question. These provide children with the opportunity to explore religious and non-religious practises and beliefs and to learn to question and ask why. At St Chad's, RE sessions provide children with a safe environment to express their own views and opinions and where all ideas are considered equal.

Throughout KS1 and KS2, children learn about a range of world religions. Through our use of Understanding Christianity, children gain a broad knowledge of the bible and its teachings. They learn about the daily practises of Christians and the differences between different types of Christian. However, many of the units focus on a range of religions to compare the similarities and differences for example 'What makes some places sacred?'. During their time in school, the children consider what it means to be a Muslim today, what matters most to Christians and Humanists, who is Jewish and what it means, what it means to be a Hindu today and many questions which take into account a range of religions.

Our RE sessions are taught in a meaningful and thought provoking way, which encourage a culture of talk. We aim to include a broad range of activities such as, art, drama and writing as part of their learning.