



Christian Distinctiveness



Christ Church C.E. Walshaw Primary School is one of 192 schools within the Diocese of Manchester. We work hard to develop and sustain our school's Christian distinctiveness. Our staff, school and trust leaders and local academy committee have a clear vision of a school with a distinctive Christian character. We work in close partnership with Christ Church Walshaw Parish Church.

The Church of England's vision for education (2016) is deeply Christian, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart. In line with the Church of England's role as the established Church, their vision is for the common good of the whole community.

- **Educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills:** enabling discipline, confidence and delight in seeking wisdom and knowledge, and developing talents in all areas of life.
- **Educating for hope and aspiration:** enabling healing, repair and renewal, coping wisely when things go wrong, opening horizons and guiding people into ways of fulfilling them.
- **Educating for community and living well together:** a core focus on relationships, participation in communities and the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together.
- **Educating for dignity and respect:** the basic principle of respect for the value and preciousness of each person, treating each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.

As a Church of England School, we offer an education that is distinctively Christian. Although each church school is unique, all church schools will share core values based on the Gospel values. Church schools are therefore places where loving God and loving our neighbours, is lived out in the daily life of the school. Therefore "Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. Christ Church aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers all of its pupils".

Our School is founded upon core values of **love, respect, perseverance, kindness, wisdom and hope** and time is spent exploring what is distinctively Christian about these particular values. Many other values are explicitly taught throughout the

school day such as, compassion, trust and gratitude. We strive for excellent relationships making our school a happy place to work and learn.

Religious Education - we follow the Manchester Diocese RE Syllabus 2023.

Worship - We have daily Collective Worship. The teachers and leaders lead most collective worship sessions, others are led by the children and some by local clergy. Child Led Worship is planned by our Value Ambassadors. Celebrating children who have demonstrated our values in or out of school happens each Friday and is an important and special time for us. This is done through our Golden Book Celebration Assembly. We gather to celebrate the work children have done in school. Children are presented with gold stickers and talk about their achievements with great pride. We celebrate home achievements, birthdays, DOJO team winners and legendary line winners too. We sing a worship song together and say prayers.

The children regularly visit Christ Church Walshaw Parish Church where the children and Reverend Steph Mawhinney lead our services to celebrate major Christian festivals. These include: Harvest, Christmas Carol Service, Easter Service and End of School Year Service. Wiggle Worship with our Foundation Stage Unit takes place at church too. Parents, grandparents, siblings and Governors join us on these occasions. The children very much enjoy going into church and see it as an extension of their school.

Prayer - Children pray regularly during the school day. All children are invited to pray during Collective Worship, before lunch and at the end of the day. All children know our **School Prayer**.