

Birmingham DBE vision for education

Church schools are at the heart of the Church of England mission to the nation, serving families, communities and neighbourhoods by “*educating for fullness of life for all*”. As the Gospel of Jesus changes lives and, thus, the world, our educational vision needs to be transformative and enable the capacity of children and young people to be agents of change, for themselves and others.

For us, educating children and young people in the light of the Gospel involves offering every opportunity we can give them to enhance their life chances beyond school, with proper access for all to employment, housing and every element essential for a flourishing, happy human life. Within our schools, children and young people should receive, and be enabled to give, love.

**Church schools living out the good news of Jesus:
transforming the world by transforming lives.**

The school has a Christian vision, rooted in an understanding of God or the teaching of Jesus, guiding its actions. **So, what does being in a church school, within the diocese of Birmingham, look like for pupils?**

Through a curriculum rooted in Christian values, pupils will receive an education that enables **fullness of life** – providing **knowledge, understanding and skills** that allow them access to full participation in their local community and beyond. Pupils will be treated with **dignity**. Each will be learn about **hope and aspiration**, and how to **live well in community**.

Pupils will be **valued and welcomed by the local church** in partnership with the school.

They will know that they belong, are valued, and are accepted as being **made in the image of God**.

They will be **loved and celebrated** for who they are; kept safe; and protected from bullying.

They will be **given a voice** and empowered to question and challenge; be curious; become leaders; and be an advocate both for themselves and for others.

They will be taught **resilience and aspiration** and given the hope that they can make the world a better **place** by being fully themselves.

They will experience and learn to be a part of a community, using their **gifts and skills to serve** one another to the benefit of all.

They will be shown how to offer kindness and compassion to both themselves and to others. Bad experiences and behaviour will not have the last word, as there is always hope and the opportunity for a change of heart. Pupils will learn that **saying sorry, forgiving, and reconciling** are possible.

They will witness **reconciliation and transformation** and be encouraged to experience these for themselves.

They will be given opportunities to **flourish spiritually**, learning about the vastness of the universe, their place in it, and an appreciation of the mystery of life.

Collective Worship

Pupils will experience daily collective worship: an opportunity to meet together in a shared, communal time of celebration and reflection and to experience a **living expression of faith**.

Collective worship will draw upon the rich tradition of Christian practice as expressed in the Anglican tradition, and will be **inclusive, invitational, and inspirational**.

Pupils will grow spiritually from their encounter with worship and their **participation will be invited**. They will learn about prayer and be given the opportunity to pray, experience stillness, and to reflect upon what they have heard, if they wish to do so. Some may choose to respond to collective worship; some to participate in it; some to help lead it. Others may simply wish to observe a respectful silence, taking the opportunity to quietly and peacefully prepare themselves for the day ahead.

Pupils, along with adults, will be encouraged to ask big questions about who we are, why we do what we do, and how we might be **motivated into action**; thinking differently; and reflecting on our role in the wider community and the world beyond.

Pupils will reflect on **key Christian values** such as gratitude, justice, humility, and forgiveness; and develop virtues such as compassion, humility, resilience, determination and creativity that develop character, and contribute to academic progress.

Religious Education

RE will be **challenging, accurate, well-sequenced, well-balanced, relevant, and diverse**; enabling all pupils to make progress by developing a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation and reflection. In this, teaching plans will draw upon approaches of theology, philosophy and social studies. RE will occupy at least 5% of pupils' curriculum.

Pupils will experience a high quality of **teaching about Christianity as a global faith**, which will comprise at least 50% of the RE curriculum in each year. Within this teaching, respect will be shown to world faiths, traditions and beliefs and to all individuals' rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Pupils will learn about the **story of Jesus and why this is so important to Christians**. They will be presented with a view of Jesus who challenges that which is untruthful, unjust, discriminatory, hypocritical, unkind or corrupt. They will explore important religious concepts through engagement with the Bible.

Through high-quality teaching, pupils will become **familiar with religious traditions** and worldviews and be able to speak about them with increasing confidence, including exploring their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of living and thinking in a safe space.

They will learn about wisdom from a range of religious traditions including Christianity and be encouraged not just to accept them, but to respectfully question; **listening to one another and learning how to disagree well**. They will meet and speak with people whose faith shapes their lives.

In secondary schools, pupils will study a recognised and appropriate qualification or course in RE or **Religious Studies at KS 4**.