





## School Context

At Kensworth Church of England Primary School we inspire children with a thirst for knowledge, confidence and independence through excellent teaching and our Christian ethos.

The requirements of the National Curriculum are delivered through a broad, balanced and relevant approach based on first-hand experience, which challenges and motivates each individual.

**Our Christian Ethos is one of our core values and underpins everything we do.**

## Policy Aims

We strive continually to develop confident, self-motivated learners, each to achieve their highest potential within a Christian environment. Our Christian ethos and our love of God is to be evident to all who come within our walls. It will guide not only the religious parts of the day, but will become a firm foundation for the whole life of the School. This core value should also encompass our behaviour and safeguarding of our pupils such that they are delivered in a way consistent with our Christian Values.

We are committed to providing an education which offers equality of opportunity and is free from discrimination on grounds of race, sex, class, religion or disability.

## Our Ethos

At Kensworth Primary School we aim to:-

- create a happy and caring environment;
- help children to learn that courtesy, good manners and consideration for others are very important qualities;
- encourage children to be self-disciplined, independent and industrious, to take pride in their achievements, and to be generous in their friendship;
- promote good relationships between pupils and adults;
- treat each child as an individual regardless of gender, nationality, religion or ability and provide teaching appropriate to his/her need;
- have high but realistic expectations of each child;
- work together closely as a team to provide a quality learning environment for our children;
- prepare our pupils for the responsibility and experiences of adult life to enable them to develop as well rounded members of society
- The classrooms reflect an atmosphere, where children, are purposefully engaged in learning which promotes excellence, enjoyment, perseverance, self-discipline and independence.

*"God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them"*

*(1 John 4: 16)*



## Delivery in the Classroom

Worship within the classroom in the context of the school day needs to be short, focused and age-appropriate. Time for reflection, meditation, or circle-time needs to be used carefully, with the knowledge that some children may or may not feel able to contribute verbally. It should also be time-limited, given the attention span and focusing of each class.

Opportunities for private prayer, within the context of for example a temporary prayer table could be made available during a special project week but the act of prayer should not be forced on any child.

Sweeping statements about faith should be avoided in favour of opening up a space for children to explore their own thoughts about God.

The school is expected to follow the daily routine below

<b>Daily routine:</b>	
Assembly	Short prayer of welcome during morning assembly
Lunchtime	"Grace" should be said before lunch giving thanks for our food.
Home time	Short prayer of thanks at the end of the day

These sessions could be preceded by brief circle time if appropriate, depending on the context of the topics of the day.

It should be remembered that whilst we are a Christian Church of England school, we welcome children from other faiths and those of no faith and indeed our curriculum is multi-cultural and studies many faiths and beliefs.

Our Christian Ethos should be apparent, but not overwhelming, in all we do at Kensworth School and hence it would not be appropriate to significantly exceed the daily routine.

## Guidance to staff

Faith is not a static state but a developing and continuing relationship; and so staff may find it helpful to remember that:

- Indoctrination is never appropriate
- No child should be forced to do or accept something with which they are not comfortable
- All children, regardless of language, faith or culture, should feel valued as individuals
- Staff should be sufficiently self-aware about their own faith to know when they are imposing it, rather than encouraging the children to develop their own relationship with God.



- Staff should not exploit their position, including advertising documentation from their own churches / beliefs.
- The Christian ethos of the school is drawn up within the established doctrines of the Church of England and lessons should encourage the children to conform to these principles.

### **Governor / Local Support**

We are fortunate in having strong links with all the local churches and particularly with St Mary the Virgin Parish Church. The School plays a part in a number of services during the year.

Local clergy visit the school every week to lead collective worship. In addition we have two foundation governors and several other members of our Governing Body who are regular church goers.

To ensure our Christian Ethos continues to be of prime importance in our school it has been designated a pillar of excellence / core value within the Governing Body's strategic planning.

### **Monitoring and Review**

It is expected that this policy will be reviewed at least every two years as part of the Governing Body's policy review process.

As we talk with colleagues – teaching staff, non-teaching staff, governors, parents and colleagues from other schools – we will continually monitor the effectiveness of this policy. The evaluation process will guide us into identifying future steps.