



St Nicholas^{CE}
First School

learning and believing, growing and achieving

St. Nicholas CE
First School, Codsall
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What is a Church of England School and what does it mean for your child to be educated in one?

Before the government became involved with providing education for everyone in England- there were church schools and other charitable schools. The majority of church schools were built in the 1800's.

There were two requirements, the first to teach Christianity through "Religious Instruction" and the second to hold a regular act of worship.

When the state became involved with providing mass education, church schools became integrated into the education provided by the state. All state schools including the Church school have to teach Religious Education and hold a daily act of worship.

The purpose of a Church of England school is to offer a spiritual dimension to the lives of young people, within the traditions of the Church of England, in an increasingly secular world.

25% of primary schools in England have a Church foundation.

What is being added by being a Church of England school?

Church schools have Christian beliefs and values at their heart. This means that every child and adult associated with the school is not just important because they are members of the school but because they are seen as unique individuals within God's creation.

Church schools recognise that as well as academic and emotional intelligence human beings also have spiritual intelligence. The spiritual aspects of life will be recognised, and nurtured alongside the academic and emotional needs of all.

Church schools are places where challenge through questioning is encouraged as through this we can make sense of the world, the gift of life and the purpose of our own personal lives.

What differences should you notice ?

As a pupil, parent, visitor or member of staff you should find that your church school is as good as any other good school but you should feel that the way the school works is different and distinctive. That distinctive difference will be rooted in Christian values that affect the way everyone is respected. At St Nicholas CE First School our Christian vision is:

"to provide an innovative and stimulating environment offering a wealth of experiences to inspire all in our school community. Together we will find and believe in our skills and abilities and develop a love of learning within a nurturing, caring Christian faith."

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Church schools have a duty to:

- ensure that the school is led by a headteacher who is committed, with the help of staff, to establish and maintain the Christian character of the school in its day to day activities and in the curriculum
- engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day
- offer a school life that incorporates the values of the Christian faith
- ensure that religious education is given at least 5% of school time and that the character and quality of religious education are a particular concern of the headteacher and the governing body
- maintain and develop a relationship as staff and for and with children with the [Lichfield Diocese Board of Education](#) to whom we belong
- observe the major Christian festivals and in schools which other faiths are present ensure that those faiths are able and encouraged to mark their major festivals with integrity
- maintain and develop an active and affirming relationship with a parish church
- be courageous advocates for the Christian faith, sharing actively the teachings of the Bible and applying them to everyday life
- develop an understanding of core Christian principles such as the Trinity and forgiveness
- help children to learn about Christianity from a worldwide perspective (global Christianity)
- serve the community with humility and compassion

What makes us distinctive at St Nicholas CE First School?

Our school is governed by the five values which can be rooted in Biblical teaching that underpin our daily existence at school and hopefully also at home. These are : "respect, trust, challenge, care and thankfulness". Children understand these and can apply them to situations in school.

We will **respect** our school and each other.

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Matthew 7:12

We will be honest and **trust** one another.

My God is my strength in whom I trust. Psalm 18:2

We will **challenge** each other and not give up!

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

We will show **care** and kindness to all.

Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12

We will be **thankful** and generous.

Always be thankful 1 Thessalonians 5:16

As a school with a zero-tolerance approach to bullying of any form we teach children explicitly about fellowship (Koinonia) and as such staff model this in their interactions with one another, with children and with parents.