

Christian Distinctiveness

at St Matthew's C of E Primary School

Our strong Christian distinctiveness is recognised as providing a unique commitment to nurturing and valuing all God's children in our community. We encourage all to learn about the Christian faith but recognise that becoming a Christian is a personal choice of faith and we are respectful of each other's beliefs.

Our Federation Vision

'Aim High- Believe, Fly High- Achieve'

As a federation we have one distinctively Christian vision.

Together we will flourish and thrive
Building on our Christian and local community
For the good of all.



Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles.
Isaiah 40v.31

Our Values:

All of our values are underpinned by **love**. They ensure that we create a Christian and caring environment and have 'life in all its fullness'.



Respect

We aim for all children to respect themselves, others and their communities and to take pride in all that they do.

'Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.' Luke 6:31

Honesty

We aim for all children to understand the importance of honesty, using the language of making good and bad choices.

'So you must stop telling lies. Tell each other the truth because we all belong to each other in the same body.'

Ephesians 4:25

Forgiveness

We aim for all children to understand what it means to forgive and be forgiven.

'Yes, if you forgive others for the things they do wrong, then your Father in heaven will also forgive you for the things you do wrong.' Matthew 6:14

Generosity

We aim for all children to be generous and to share with others.

'Do not forget to do good to others. And share with them what you have. These are the sacrifices that please God.' Hebrews 13:16

Hope

We aim for all children to understand the importance of hope for chances to come, using perseverance and resilience.

'But the people who trust the Lord will become strong again. They will be able to rise up as an eagle in the sky. They will run without needing rest. They will walk without becoming tired.'

Isaiah 40:31

Our Rules:

Children and staff have devised our school rules which form the basis our school's positive behaviour management and reward procedures. Our rules focus on giving the children guidelines to 'SOAR and fly high'.

Safe

This is a safe place to make mistakes

We will take actions to keep ourselves Safe

Open and honest

We are honest and tell the truth

Actions

We are kind and gentle

We listen and work hard

Respect

We are polite

We look after and respect each other and property



We set clear boundaries for the children and implement the "Good To Be Green" approach in all classrooms. This scheme ensures that all children understand and are recognised for appropriate behaviour. We take a celebratory approach and the whole school comes together for a weekly celebration assembly to share in each other's achievements and successes. During this time, children are proud to bring certificates and awards that they have received from out of school activities and share their successes in other areas.

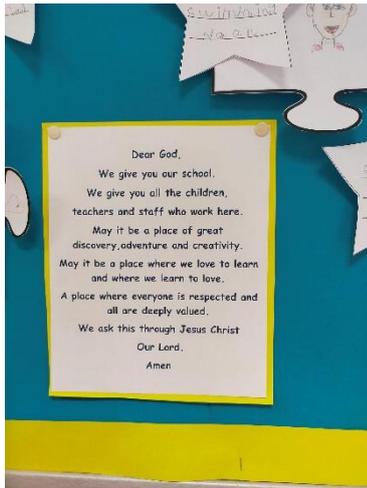
Across each half term children collect Dojo points; These can be collected for a variety of reasons but the emphasis is on rewarding children who persevere, are supportive to their peers, take care of resources, show kindness and respect to others and make positive contributions to the class and school.

Children are taught about how each of our rules help us live out our values and vision.

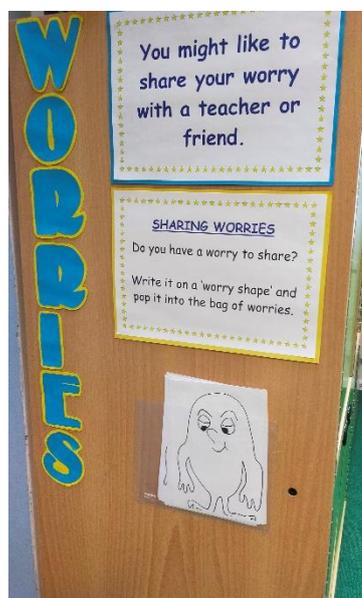
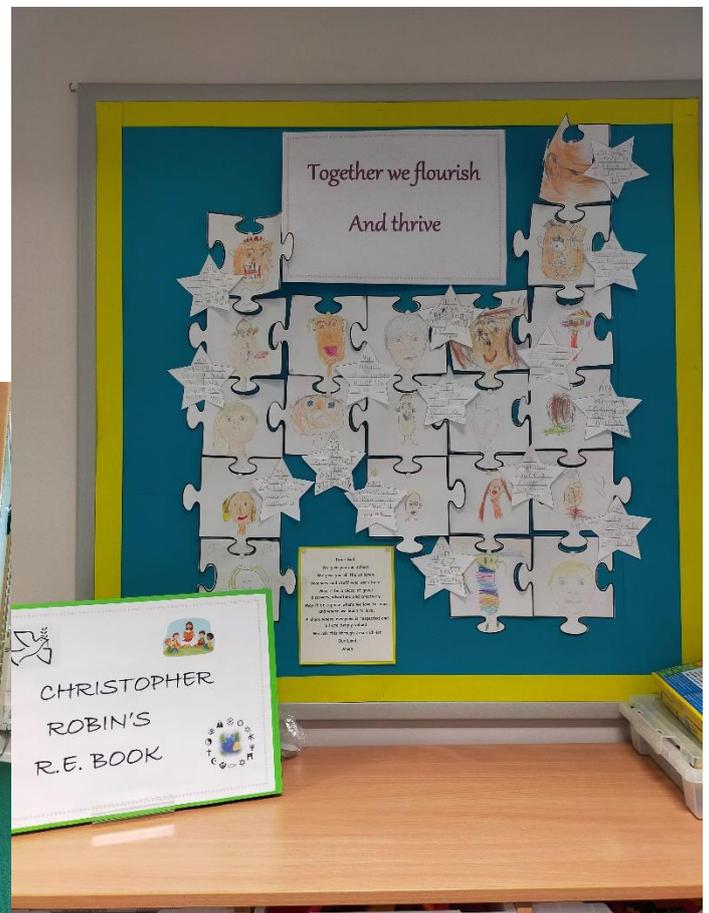


ClassDojo

Our Spirituality, Prayer and Reflection:



Each classroom has a reflection area, where children are encouraged to take time to be still and reflect, to observe the world, the everyday and the extraordinary and be fascinated by the discoveries we make. Children are encouraged to write prayers for the classroom and our church services - their combined ideas form the prayers read by children within the services.



Our Collective Worship:

We hold daily acts of Collective Worship, mostly as a whole school but also within our classes. All within school are invited to take time to worship. Our themes for Collective Worship follow our values and link directly to passages from the Bible showing how we can live out God's word in our daily lives. The daily Christian act of worship makes an important contribution to the overall spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the whole school community. The themes which our Collective Worship are formed around are taken from the traditions of the Christian calendar and our shared Federation values

Our school has a close link with St Matthew's church. Special services such as Easter, Harvest, Christmas and Leavers' Services are held at the church which parents are invited to.

At the start of Collective Worship, children enter the hall in "family" groups. Within the group, children are mixed age - with an older child taking the role as 'Value Leader'. Children sit in a horse shoe shape in their groups around the leader of the Collective Worship.

The Bible passage or message is delivered as interactively as possible in order to support understanding, create memories and a desire to reflect on the message given.

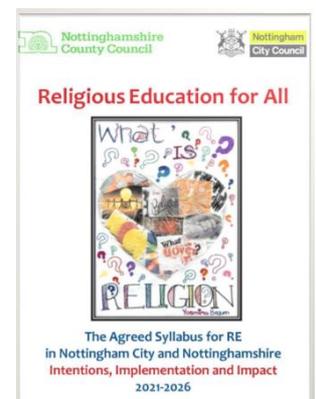
Picture news is also used weekly during Collective worship, allowing opportunities for children to learn about our world, developing independence, resilience and respect.

Our RE:



Our RE is based on the 'Understanding Christianity' resource and the Religious Education For All Agreed Syllabus. The units covered are detailed in our long term plans for KS1 and KS2.

Other world faith celebrations such as Diwali and Chinese New Year are explored in class and during Collective Worship at the relevant times of year. KS2 children also take part in an annual multi faith day at Southwell Minster.



Our Local Community:

We welcome members of our local community into school for regular coffee mornings – these can take place around curriculum themes of Maths or English or as fundraising events for MacMillan. Our most recent coffee morning is a writing café, children in school have been using the same story book stimulus 'The Fox and the Star' and during the café they are able to share their final written piece with friends and family.

Children in upper KS2 also take part in the Dare 25 Programme, this equips children with the knowledge to make the right choices as they grow.

We also actively participate in a range of events within our local community including education activities led by the team at Southwell Minster. In school we have a Community Links big book which provides detail of our actions within the community.

The Wider Community:



We also support national and local charities that are important to children and their families; Children in Kenya, Children in Need, Red Nose Day, Foodbank and MacMillan coffee morning.