

For the last year, since the publication of the national Church of England report "A Diocesan Board of Education for the Future", our own DBE has taken time to consider afresh why we, as a diocese are involved in education and to work out more of what it means to be **Joining in with the Transforming Mission of God** in and through our church schools and academies. As we have been doing this it has become clear that the three strands of the diocesan mission statement **living worship, growing disciples and seeking justice** can be worked out if we seek to provide schools that are **Distinctive, Inclusive, Effective and Rooted**. Further work has been done by members of the education team looking at



what the hallmarks are of schools in our diocese that truly exhibit these qualities.

We hope that the practical examples given in this leaflet will act as an inspiration and guide to church school leaders, governors, staff, clergy, chaplains and lay volunteers to further develop the Christian ethos in their school and in

turn bring transformation to the lives of children and young people as they encounter Christian faith in action. What is clear, is that God is at work in all sorts of ways both seen and unseen in and through our church schools.

Claire Meese
Diocesan Director of Education



A statement of how we live out the diocesan vision in church schools & academies...



Joining together in the Transforming Mission of God we seek for Church of England Schools and Academies to be:

Distinctive, Inclusive, Effective & Rooted



Living Worship, Growing Disciples & Seeking Justice

Distinctive

Having a Christian ethos based on living worship and creating a sense of belonging with a curriculum framework offering opportunities for God and faith to be discussed openly.

Signs of Christian distinctiveness will be:

Engaging collective worship at the heart of school life, offering opportunities to Explore, Encounter and Experience the Christian faith.

Relevant religious education occupying a central place in the curriculum and offering

opportunities to deepen understanding of others' faith and beliefs, achieve academic success and develop spiritually.

A respectful atmosphere that encourages and allows faith and the big questions of life to be discussed openly and without apology within the curriculum and in 'safe spaces' provided in the



school environment.
Visionary leadership that promotes the Christian ethos of the school seeking the best for all pupils and valuing the contribution of all

You are the light of the world. A town on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl instead they put it on a stand and it gives light to everyone in the house.

(Matthew 5:14-16)

Inclusive

Serving local communities by being open to children of all backgrounds, irrespective of ethnicity, faith or family situation; nurturing those of the Christian faith and welcoming those of other faiths and none.

Inclusive schools will:

Welcome all and give them the opportunity to understand and experience the Christian faith which inspires and motivates the school.

Value everyone recognising that they are made in the image of God and loved by Him.
Build community and create a strong sense of belonging amongst pupils, staff and parents by modelling faith in action



through positive relationships
Celebrate the achievements and contributions of all

Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me.

(Mark 9:37)

Effective

Seeking justice by working to ensure an excellent education for all pupils.

Effective schools will be committed to:

Pupils making the best academic progress they



can across the curriculum
Holistic development of pupils providing intentional opportunities for them to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally so they can relate positively to themselves, other people, the world around them and God.

Responsible citizenship by actively encouraging pupils to contribute to the life of the school and wider community by developing



attitudes of service to others
Working with other partners to ensure that all pupils have access to high quality educational experiences.

I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

(John 10:10)

Rooted

In Christian values and the rich faith background of the Church of England, enabling pupils to flourish as human beings and grow as disciples.

Rooted schools will seek to:

Live out Christian values in all aspects of school life
Bring to life prayer, liturgy and the sacraments in the life of the school

Offer a personal encounter with the person and life of Jesus Christ
Build firm foundations throughout the school based on the teachings of Jesus in the bible



Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

(Matthew 7:24)

"Church schools are as concerned as any other school to equip pupils for lives marked by rapid change, global competition and insecurity. But church schools know in their viscera that this is not just about acquiring skills and good examination results, they are also about forming people who have the moral strength and spiritual depth to hold on to a course and weather the ups and downs of life."

(George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury)