

Christian Distinctiveness in Diocese of Sheffield Schools

Following reflection and discussion within the Diocese, this common commitment sets out shared hopes for the children in our Church of England schools. We are well aware that schools will apply this to their distinctive context, but the aspiration of our Diocese is that children will experience the following.

Children will

enquire into belief
encounter Christianity
engage with scripture
experience prayer
explore church

The Common Commitment

- Children will encounter the Christian faith in a spirit of enquiry
- children will encounter Christian concepts
- the Bible will be read in class at least once a week, outside assembly
- children will experience the Lord's Prayer once a week
- schools will develop liturgy fitted to their own setting
- each class will have a space set aside for reflection
- children will visit the school's parish church on a regular basis
- every child will visit the cathedral once in their time at our church school
- staff will lead by example both in conduct and in modelling enquiry
- children's personal enquiry into faith will be cultivated, but their journey remains theirs

“Distinctiveness is about more than organizational arrangements and designation as a school or religious character. It must include a wholehearted commitment to putting faith and spiritual development at the heart of the curriculum and ensuring that a Christian ethos permeates the whole education experience”

The Church School of the Future Review

“Christian identity is established not primarily by denying and combating what is outside but by embracing and highlighting the centre of what is inside – Jesus Christ as the Word”

Miroslav Volf

“The distinctiveness of a church school is open-ended without being wishy-washy, inclusive without denying its very foundations in the Christian story. It looks for the reality of God from the reality of what it is to be human”

John Cox

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CHRISTIANITY

in

Diocese of Sheffield

Schools



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