

CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN ETHOS COMMITTEE

The Christian Ethos Committee is part of the governance structure of Christ Church Primary School. The committee:

- is charged with ensuring that the Christian distinctiveness of the school is maintained and where possible enhanced
- normally meets three times a year
- is chaired by the Vicar of Christ Church
- is attended by all foundation governors, the Head Teacher, and the RE lead for the school
- is an important link between the school and the church.

This year we have sought to maintain the traditionally close links between church and school despite the departure of both 'Rev Tim' and 'Rev Mike'. Inevitably the church presence was less in evidence at school acts of worship, though foundation governors have attended occasionally, the Open the Book team have been in regularly (thank you), and I presented New Testaments to school leavers at the end of the summer term. We have ensured that school was able to come to Christ Church several times in the year to mark significant festivals, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter. Thanks to those Christ Church folks who willingly helped with those events; the school has asked me to give special thanks to Andrew Judge for his leading and Chris Eddershaw for arranging lots of candles for the Christmas Service.

In January the school underwent a SIAMs inspection – this is a special inspection of church Schools focusing on RE and Christian Ethos. We are pleased with the generally positive report which identifies the following key findings:

- The school has a distinctive Christian vision which has supported rapid improvement over recent years.
- There is a highly inclusive ethos where everyone is valued and well supported. As a result, all pupils flourish, including the most vulnerable.
- The school is characterised by a warm family feeling which is a key element of its vision. This ensures that there are excellent relationships and deep respect for difference and diversity.
- Highly effective links with the local church ensure that pupils have good biblical understanding and a secure knowledge of the church year. Prayer, in a variety of forms, is a strength of the school.
- Good teaching of Religious Education (RE), including high quality discussion and debate, enables pupils to gain a wide knowledge of a range of world faiths.

We need more governors! This year at least two of our foundation governors are coming to the end of their term of office and retiring. Come and join us! This is a fulfilling task and chance to have real Christian influence; but you do not need to be an education professional (I am not). Please talk to me or to Carolyn Parikos, the deputy Chair of Governors, if you think this might be for you.

Ian Kirkwood