



Langley Fitzurse Church of England Primary School

As a Church of England School we have...

A Vision (Strand 1 – SIAMS)

*We are an inclusive, friendly church school with a family feel.
Our purpose is to **Amaze, Excite & Inspire** confident, happy and resilient children
within our community where everyone can reach their full potential.*

Created with the help of pupils, staff, parents/carers, governors & members of St Peter's Church, during 2019.

Why? It helps us to plan & make decisions across all areas of the school.

A Bible Verse (Strand 1 – SIAMS)

'Let us help each other to love others and do good' Hebrews 10:24

Why? Our vision and values are underpinned by the Bible. During 2020 we chose this Bible verse because it embodies these and sums up what it means to be part of the Langley Fitzurse School family.

Christian Values

Friendship, Respect, Truthfulness, Forgiveness, Perseverance and **Service**.

During 2019 the Worship Council, staff & governors agreed six values that are regarded as the most important for our life at Langley Fitzurse School.

Why? One value is chosen each term and pupils spend time exploring and learning about what that means in school and at home (Collective Worship, reflection time, newsletters). We call these Christian values because our learning is rooted in the person & the teachings of Jesus, through Bible stories and looking at how Christians through the centuries have been inspired & strengthened by these values.

A partnership with the local church



Our partnership with St Peter's is especially important – this is demonstrated in the Bristol Diocese Church/School Partnership Award. School services are held in the church to welcome new pupils, mark Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas, Christingle and Easter, and to farewell our Year 6's. Church services and events are advertised in school, and pupils are often invited to take part. Rev Alison Love, Rev Mark Siddall and Mrs Katherine Bloomer lead Collective Worship, support RE lessons and offer pastoral care. Mrs Bloomer works with our pupil Worship Council to help find new ways of being a church school, sets up a Prayer Space for Y6 during SATS week, and is on the school's Christian Distinctiveness committee. Our foundation governor, Mrs Harriet Wilkins attends parish church meetings. St Peter's Church has been very generous in supporting projects in school and gives a Bible to each Y6 pupil.

Why? The school was founded by the local church for the education of the whole village. The relationship is legally enshrined in the Trust Deeds and is a mutually beneficial partnership.



Christian signs and symbols

Signs and symbols of the Christian heritage on which our school is built are found inside & outside the school: crosses, rainbows, Worship Cloth, prayers.

Collective worship (Strand 6 - SIAMS)

Our worship is of a Christian nature in the Anglican (Church of England) tradition, with God and Jesus as the focus. However, we aim to be inclusive, offering opportunities for children of both a Christian and non-Christian background to take part in ways that are appropriate for them. Singing, prayers, Bible stories, silence and reflection on values in action. Parents, carers and families are invited to join our Celebration assemblies, as well as festival services. Led by different members of staff within the school, as well as visitors from St Peter's Church & the local community. We follow the cycle of the Church Year, monitored & evaluated by pupils of the Worship Council & head teacher – for improvement and impact.



Practical ways of showing love and care (Strand 3 & 4 - SIAMS.)

As a school we support many local, national and international charities, welcoming visitors into school to help our pupils to develop an understanding of the wider world in which we live and the needs of people around the world. Support - The Children's Society, Doorway, The Rise Trust, and the Kington Langley Scarecrow Festival. For many years the school has also supported

Vivian, who lives in Ghana, through Plan International UK.

Why? It is important to teach our pupils about supporting others, both in their own community and around the world, recognising that people do not grow up with the same experiences in life. It is more than just raising money – committed relationships.

Opportunities to develop our spirituality (Strand 3 – SIAMS)

Spiritual development relates to fundamental questions about the meaning and purpose of life which affect everyone and is not dependant on a religious affiliation. All areas of the school curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development, not just RE, PSHE or Collective Worship.

Why? Education is about the development of our mind, body and spirit. Christian Spirituality is how we experience being drawn into the life and activity of God by his Spirit. It involves prayer, silence and study of the Bible but is much more. It is about the whole of life.



A Vibrant RE curriculum (Strand 7 - SIAMS)

The curriculum is based on the agreed syllabus provided by Wiltshire SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) and uses Understanding Christianity resources. We encourage pupils to ask questions and begin to explore and express their own views – it is not seeking to convert children to Christianity.

Why? Through the study of Christianity and other religions we seek to increase children's knowledge of other people's beliefs, values and religious practices, and so promote an attitude of respect, understanding, and tolerance.

A SIAMS Inspection

In addition to Ofsted inspections, church schools receive a denominational inspection - the Church of England's Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), which assesses the effectiveness of Church of England schools as Church schools. It aims to make a significant contribution to the improvement of church schools.

All governors should have a copy of the self-evaluation form (SEF) which is a living document. All governors share the responsibility for ensuring the school is an effective church school – ***even under the new federation.***

The new SIAMS Evaluation schedule has one inspection question:

How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?

This is explored through 7 strands:

1. Vision and leadership
2. Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills
3. Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy
4. Community and Living Well Together
5. Dignity and Respect
6. The impact of collective worship
7. The effectiveness of religious education

One overall grade is awarded, reflecting the contribution of these strands to the flourishing of pupils **and adults** in a church school. In addition, a standalone grade is awarded in all schools for collective worship. *In 2016 Langley Fitzurse was awarded 'Outstanding', however the grading system has changed, with 'Good' being the new gold standard and only a small proportion of schools gaining 'Excellent'.*

The inspection usually involves a one day visit by an inspector, who will talk to pupils, parents, staff, governors and members of the local church team. They will carry out a learning walk to explore physical evidence of the school's Christian character and observe collective worship and RE lessons. In addition, the inspector will also look at the school website, policies and planning documents.

You can find out more information on the school website

<http://langleyfitzurse.wilts.sch.uk/church-school/>, in particular the Church School leaflet.

Things we do to be a great church school	Things we do not do in order that the school remains fully inclusive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governors, head teacher and staff should be supportive of the Christian character of the school, as laid out in this document. This will be explicitly determined during the interview/selection process • We will maintain 2 Foundation Governors • Governor meetings and sub committee meetings will open with prayer • Have a Christian Distinctiveness sub committee which directly reports to the Board of Governors • Lead and attend church services at key times of the year (currently 6 times) • Have a close partnership with our local church, St Peter's • Run a Worship Council where KS2 pupils work with governors, the head teacher and member of the church team • Hold Collective Worship daily – exploring the school values and utilising Biblical stories and the teachings of Jesus • Offer 'Experiences' – opportunities for in depth, multi-sensory explorations of Christian festivals, etc. • Offer opportunities to explore reflection and spirituality in a Christian context (e.g. 11 by 11 Lifepath at Malmesbury Abbey) • Ensure that the school environment reflects our status as a church school e.g. crosses, Worship cloth, values displays • Promote opportunities for public speaking, taking part and leading worship as and when appropriate, without compromising pupils' beliefs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require that pupils, parents, staff or governors are professed Christians (except for our 2 Foundation Governors) or show favouritism to applicants that are so • Actively evangelise – seek to convert pupils or parents to the Christian faith • Only learn about Christianity in Religious Education – we learn about all the major faiths

We wish to be a great church school because we believe that it can enhance the learning and development of the pupils of Langley Fitzurse School. It is not a historic requirement, or an audit that we need to pass, but a raison-d'être that can enhance the life experience of both children and adults.