

Christian Distinctiveness Meeting, 6th November 2025

Attending: Karen Winterburn, Rev Richard Priest, Edward Buchan, Katherine Bloomer

Apologies: James Osler

Copy to: Amber Batson (Chair), Rev Suzanne Grindrod (Priest in Charge)

RP opened in prayer.

Minutes from 22nd May 2025	Foundation governor – we welcomed Edward to his first meeting. Tom has now stood down, and we want to record our thanks for his work in this role. This leaves a vacancy, and Andrea Grafton (churchwarden) has volunteered. The process will be underway once the PCC has endorsed her application. Lent – Katherine will produce resources for T4 (Ash Wednesday falls on 18th Feb in 2026, which is half term) Transition, Leavers, Back to School – Jessy & Katherine led a session for the Y6's, thanks to the PCC for providing Bibles for the Leavers. The Back to School service and BBQ went well, in spite of torrential rain! Reflection Tables – Karen to remind teachers to encourage use. Resources for T2 provided – starting in Advent. Plough Sunday - this is on 11th January and we will look at how to mark this in school. Katherine to speak to Amy.	KB KW KB
Upcoming Events T2 and 3	Harvest – 7th October. The service went well and Doorway were very appreciative of the food gifts. Make a Difference Day – 8th October. In memory of our late caretaker, Laurence Dale. This was well supported with over 20 adult volunteers caring for the school building and grounds. Remembrance – Richard will lead a service in school on 11th November. Advent – Katherine has sent in some resources for classes to use from 1st December to support spiritual reflection. On 28th November Katherine and Azzi Spragg will make the Advent wreath with the Worship Council. They will lead CW on 1st December to introduce Advent. Christmas Tree Festival – this is on Friday 5th December at St Peter's Church. The school is invited to participate with an entry. Carols on the Common – outside St Peter's on 16th December (following the meeting Karen advised that the school choir would not be able to sing at this event).	

	Christmas Service – Thursday 18th December 9.15am. Rev Suzanne will top and tail. School to plan this service. Christingle – Candlemas is on 2nd February. School service proposed 5th February (after the meeting Karen advised that this clashes with a trip to Sheldon. Alternative date being sought) Katherine won't be able to make marmalade this time around.	JO
Church/School links	Values Storytelling – 6th October and booked for 10th November. NWMA Wild church – took place on 1st October. Jessy will arrange a Spring date. Partnership award – Karen had been in touch with the Diocese about the new format. To send to members (<i>done – thank you</i>) along with the 2023 review. Katherine will do some work on this. 2025/6 Experience – James and Katherine have agreed on after Easter Experience which covers ascension, Pentecost and Trinity! To agree a date in T5.	KB JO/KB
Collective Worship	Evaluation – James and Karen to find a way of capturing pupil thoughts on a regular basis, to demonstrate impact. To look through recent comments as well. Resources – Katherine has sent through the T2 resources on Respect. Karen expressed appreciation and fed back how well pupils are engaging with CW.	KW/JO
Worship Council/ Pupil Voice	T1 – we met on 15th October. Minutes available on the school website. T2 – Meeting on 17th November. We will be making the Advent wreath (28th Nov) and leading a CW on Advent (1st Dec). Also running a Christmas trail in church for Hercules on the afternoon of 8th December. T3 – to lead a CW on the Amaze, Excite, Inspire spirituality flame. In the Spring to revisit the Outdoor reflection area.	
RE	WIRE award – this is being progressed for an application this academic year. There will be a visit to the Sikh Gurdwara in Swindon in 2026. Spirited Arts – the school will do this in the summer term. James agreeing the theme with class teachers. St Peters church happy to display and help with judging if required. Church support – Richard is coming in on 25th November to talk to Phoenix about Christmas and the Incarnation.	

	In 2016 the Religious Education Council set up the independent commission on RE (CoRE) Their report published in September 2018 made eleven recommendations. One of these argued for a new approach to RE based on the notion of worldviews. Schools are now moving to a religion and worldviews (RWV) approach in the classroom. James is attending network meetings and keeping up with the new SACRE scheme of work.	
SIAMS	<i>Embed the language of spirituality across the school so that pupils and adults can see spirituality pervades all areas of school life.</i> Katherine had sent a proposed explanation for the school's approach to spirituality for the newsletter, website and to go up in school. This is to support the Collective Worship that the Worship Council will lead in T3. A local villager has created flames with 'Amaze, Excite, Inspire' for the Worship table and class reflection tables. Karen was content with this document. The year there is a whole school project to create a wall hanging around light and spirituality, led by Alica Ford. <i>Extend the opportunities for pupils to develop an understanding of Christianity as a global religion so that they might deepen their knowledge and appreciation of diversity in religious and non-religious worldviews</i> We need to keep thinking about the music, images, prayers, examples we use around Christianity to ensure that it is being demonstrated as a global religion. Katherine talked about revisiting the theological reflection around the school's vision and values. She is happy to do some basic work on this.	
Courageous Advocacy	Making a Difference – Agents of Change. The school is up and running with this with a year plan and milestones. In T6 there will be a whole school study focusing on the local area, which will be linked with Agents of Change. Pupils being asked 'What are you going to do?' The challenge is to be age appropriate but also meaningful. We look forward to hearing more.	
Any Other Business	James and Katherine are attending the Diocesan Education conference on Friday 21st November.	
Date of next meeting	Monday 2nd March 2026, 1.30pm	