



## Ethos Information 2022-2023

### **Collective Worship in School**

This year in collective worship we have focussed on drawing all elements of our worship together to ensure a holistic approach which feeds LIGHT into daily collective worship. We use a variety of avenues for worship such as the 'Roots and Fruits' resources, weekly visits from a minister from the local Parish, class worship, half termly visits from the Trust Chaplain and celebration. Annual Trust themes are threaded through and begin from the Roots and Fruits material. Every collective worship offers time for reflection, encouraging pupils to consider their role: self, family, school and/or the wider community.

Faith Champions have been introduced this academic year in KS2. These pupils support collective worship through readings, prayer, leading sections of collective worship through drama and story. Children are keen to be allocated this role within school. Many pupils regularly make valuable contributions to the interactive collective worship display, which is changed each half term, with a new focus each week.

This year each class has led their own collective worship, open for parents to attend. This has increased opportunities for pupils to lead collective worship further. Children have chosen the theme for their class collective worship with themes such as 'Let Your LIGHT Shine' and 'Everyone has Rights'. Pupils have also linked themes from their PSHE and Music lessons to deliver worship around 'Bullying' in an alternative manner.

### **Supporting Children of Other Faiths in Their Faith**

Throughout collective worship and through our curriculum, children are invited to consider their own faith and that of others. Opportunities are given for children to share special celebrations in class, bringing photographs and talking about their personal faith. Children learn about other faiths through the RE curriculum and their involvement in these lessons brings their faith to life for other pupils, opening up questions from pupils to increase their knowledge and understanding.

### **Teaching Children about Faith**

The Blackburn Diocesan syllabus is currently used to deliver RE across the school. Over the next academic year, we will transition to the newly created syllabus from the Manchester Diocese. Key staff have attended training to ensure they understand the changing RE curriculum:

*"The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living."*

This new syllabus reflects current thinking and research around religion and worldviews. There will be opportunities for the thematic study of religious belief (through comparing beliefs on a theme) and the developing of associated skills in this area. It also includes planned opportunities for systematic study, approaching one religious' tradition at a time.

This new syllabus incorporates the 'Understanding Christianity' approach which will enable school to continue to use these resources and develop further good practice.

### **Other Experiences that Teach Children about Faith**

Pupils from year 5 and 6 have enjoyed experiences offered through Blue Coat within the curriculum in Design Technology for bridge building and food technology. Through our annual residential, pupils were able to take part in trust building, collaboration and negotiation skill building sessions.

Pupils from Year 5 visited the local War Memorial and were then invited to attend a Heritage event at the Oldham Art Gallery to meet with the mayor and other dignitaries to showcase their learning.

### **Faith in Action and Community**

Pupils are encouraged to take ownership of 'living like Jesus' in the way they respond to each other, their family and those around them in the wider community. This can be seen around school in the way older children care for younger children e.g., leading them into, and setting the example of how to sit and engage in collective worship. Responsibilities of roles such as eco-council, school council, ambassadors and faith champions also give children the opportunity to 'lead the way' in living out our mission to 'Let Your LIGHT Shine'. Pupils are given opportunities to serve one another such as helping to clear and tidy at lunch time and have supported our local community through our links with the Shaw foodbank and Dr Kershaw's Hospice. During the Summer term, year 6 pupils took part in the 'Grow £5' enterprise project. This developed collaborative working skills as they worked in teams to create, market and sell products with only a £5 start-up figure. Following the project, the children decided to donate over half of the funds raised to Cancer Research – a charity they all strongly wanted to support due to the health condition of one of their parents. Many of our pupils have taken part in Charity events outside of school with two children participating in climbing a mountain for charity with a parent.

### **The Awe and Wonder Aspect of Spirituality**

This year our choir attended 'Young Voices' in Manchester and were able to not only experience a live concert but be part of one. The joy was clearly evident on their faces! The choir also sang beautifully at St. James' Church during a special celebratory Leavers Service for our year 6 children.

A 'Quiet Space has been set up as a dedicated room for students to use during lunchtimes. This has given opportunities for mindfulness activities, jigsaw building and many creative tasks away from the bustling outdoor playgrounds.

Pupils have taken advantage of learning opportunities within the local area looking at the mills and the rivers that are close to school. Visitors have included representatives of the Oldham Mountain Rescue team and some visitors also transported children back to the time of the Great Fire of London!

Pupils have also ventured out to enjoy a wide variety of educational visits to Castleshaw, Eureka, Tatton Park, Mahdlo, Summit Up, and also, Bluecoat School to support and enhance learning across many curriculum areas.

Pupils from years 5 & 6 enjoyed a residential activity at Robinwood showing resilience and determination when facing challenges. Year 4 students have also attended swimming sessions since Easter.

School offer a broad spectrum of extra-curricular activities including Lego, science and sports clubs. In addition to clubs offered by school, we also offer our facilities for karate and dance clubs run by private organisations on our school site. This supports our families by giving children the opportunity to access more specialised clubs at a reduced rate.

Our 'Celebration' day this year focussed on Sports, with children taking part in Zumba, orienteering and a highly interactive drumming workshop. Our annual celebration day always seeks to offer something different and engaging for our pupils to inspire new interests. Funding for this was raised through a school council led sponsored event incorporating a healthy lifestyle activity when pupils and staff were challenged to climb the height of a mountain by walk up and down the school driveway. They managed to climb the equivalent of several mountains including Mount Kilimanjaro.

Children are encouraged to share their personal achievements when attending clubs and events outside of the school day. We have many talented pupils who complete reading challenges with the local libraries and represent our community in local and regional competitions in varied sports such as dance and rugby.

### **Role of the Chaplain and Other Clergy**

The role between the school and Clergy from the local parish remains strong. Sadly, Reverend Dave retired from our Governing board and the parish earlier in the year. School have continued to develop links with Reverend Katy Cunliffe, who resides over the 'Local Mission Community' churches and Father Paul, Curate in Charge of St James's and St Saviours churches. We are supported through weekly collective worship on Tuesday's, linking to our whole school weekly theme. Mother Katy joined our Governing body this year and offers great support for the wider school in this role. Father Paul offers pastoral support to the school and has enhanced this by adding a Leaver's Service this academic year for our year 6 pupils. The pupils were extremely touched by the service, it certainly added to their feeling of belonging to the community and how this would continue as they journeyed on to their secondary schools. They were also very grateful for the gifts of a pen, inscribed with quotes such as 'make it happen', 'be kind', 'life is sweet' and 'believe in yourself', and the tea-light reminding them to continue to 'shine their light' in the future.

Our pupils have continued to enjoy the inspiring Worship led by Mr Ford, Blue Coat's Chaplain, every half term. This gives further opportunity for Collective Worship links across our family of schools within the Trust. Mr Ford also meets with St George's RE and Collective Worship lead towards the end of the academic year to support planning of the next academic year collective worship themes. This enables St George's to embed coverage of key themes we believe we need to cover within the coming year whilst still following the Trust overview.