

## What additional Support does our School receive as a Church School?

In addition to help from the Diocese, the local churches provide volunteers for all aspects of school life from hearing children read and after school clubs to governors' duties..

The weekly Church-sponsored "Open the Book" assemblies, not only save staff time, but are very popular with the children. Additional parent volunteers to help with this would be warmly welcomed. At Christmas and Eastertime, the local church organises whole workshops for students. Newton Flotman church is used for end of term assemblies, is also a curriculum resource, a venue for meetings and part of the school's emergency arrangements.

We want all our children to become thoughtful and reflective people. With this in mind, UK schools are encouraged to give opportunities for spiritual development. With this in mind, in Newton Flotman, the local churches have helped us to put on special prayer weeks with opportunity for prayer and reflection. Talks and prayers in all assemblies and the resources in prayer spaces are expressed in a thought-provoking and open-ended way so that adults and children of all faiths and none can take from them what they feel is relevant and useful to their own lives.

We hope this leaflet helps to explain why we believe Church Schools to be so special and the advantages they can offer to children in terms of care, values and thinking skills. We would be very grateful to receive any feedback from you about how we can make your child's Church School experience even better. You can fill in a feedback form at the school office or speak with one of the Foundation Governors who are often in school - especially at the end of school on Thursdays



## What is great about being a Church school?



Your Foundation Governors - Rev Sally Gaze, Mrs Kathryn Critchell and Mr Jeff Billings.



More information about the support we receive as a Church Schools is available at [www.dioceseofnorwich.org/schools](http://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/schools)



A Guide for Parents

Newton Flotman Church of England Primary School is an inclusive learning community which is based on Christian values. We have consulted children, parents staff and governors about and believe our values are good for all children, whether Christian or not. We want everyone in our school to learn to:-

**Love Enjoy Accept Respect Nurture**

These are our summary of to the Christian values of compassion, hope and forgiveness; creativity and joy; friendship and equality; humility and gratitude; responsibility, generosity and peace. They also spell LEARN with their first letters.

This ethos comes from being a Church School. This leaflet has been designed to answer questions you may have about being a Church School.

### **Why are some State Schools also Church Schools?**

Education has not always been considered a right or a necessity in our country. Churches were the first organisations to seek to provide education for all, believing that learning could provide a way out of poverty. This led many churches to found schools in the nineteenth century. The foundation of our school still provides for the promotion of Christian qualities and the appointment of foundation governors by the local church. Our Governing Body comprises 5 parent governors, 2 community governors, 2 staff governors, 1 local authority governor and 3 foundation governors. All governors give their time freely and generously to benefit many different aspects of school life. Foundation governors also have to ensure that Christian values are embedded in policies and put into practice in the every day life of the school.

### **What additional Support does our School receive as a Church School?**

The Norwich Diocesan Education Department gives expert support, advice and training on buildings and accommodation, ethos, employment, governance and recruitment as well as training courses for staff and governors. Church Schools have extra inspections (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)) which help us to concentrate particularly on being a caring school, helping every child to achieve their all-round potential and to help students to think critically about values.

(continued overleaf)

What are the advantages for my child in attending a Church School?

Church schools have values. As a Church School, we are rooted in the Christian belief that every person is uniquely made by God and of infinite value. We therefore have the strongest possible motivation for helping every child to achieve their all-round potential.

By law, all schools teach Religious Education. Church schools spend a larger proportion of this RE time learning about Christianity, alongside other religions. Children in our school have the opportunity to freely explore Christian teachings which may provide a grounding, if they wish, for their own beliefs, spirituality and life choices. While this can be provided in any school, for a Church School it is a clear requirement. How well we support children in spiritual and moral development and in is inspected by the statutory SIAMS inspection every three years.

Children love the things that being a church school brings - Open the Book, the Christmas and Easter workshops and the prayer of their treasured experiences of So for many, the advantage of a Church School is simply fun!

