

## Overview of the Christian Ethos at Bursledon CE (C) Infant School

All children understand and embrace the values of the school: love, respect and aspire. The Bursledon values are displayed throughout the school. The children strive to meet our school values and use these to help them make appropriate choices. The children are rewarded when they demonstrate these school values by being presented with a Bursledon value sticker. The children then sit on the Bursledon value bench during collective worship so they can share when they have been presented with a sticker.

RE is taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus 'Living Difference Revised'. The concepts develop across the year groups. The planning is detailed and teachers assess the children against criteria set out in the planning. Usually there will be around six hours of learning for each topic, and this will be blocked during the half term.

SMSC has a high priority across the Federation. This is focused on celebrating and improving all pupil outcomes, from the academic to the social, emotional to spiritual. Much of this work is underpinned by our very effective Emotional Literacy Support Assistants

The Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter are celebrated both as a school and with the local community. A recent addition to this was the Federation's first Advent celebration

We are currently developing our learning environment including signs and symbols to reflect our Christian foundation. This is to emphasise that there are no ideological pressures at our school, yet Christian values are built into our ethos and teaching at all levels

Collective Worship is a fundamental aspect of daily school life. We closely follow the principles of Greet, Gather, Engage and Send.

On Monday morning there is whole school worship, led by the Head of School or Head of the Federation. The theme for the worship is of a Christian nature and links are made with our school values. The children are encouraged to join in and to think about these themes and then feedback their ideas to the whole school. The Lord's Prayer is displayed in the hall and said each week.

Every Tuesday morning there is a key stage worship, led by staff. This builds upon the theme introduced during Monday's worship.

On Wednesday mornings the worship is led by clergy. This reflects and enlarges upon the theme from the week and will look into it at a deeper level – albeit with an age appropriate slant. Children are encouraged to listen to a story, discuss the story and the Christian value it portrays, add their own opinion and relate it to their own experience which helps them gain meaning and understanding.

On Thursday morning the chair of governors attends to lead the praise. Children practice songs with a Christian theme and often related to the overarching theme from Monday's worship. Music is an important part of worship and the children are told the relevance of the songs they are singing.

Every Friday, we end the week with Celebration Worship. This is a chance to reward children for their demonstration of the Bursledon values. Parents are invited to the worship when their child is going to be presented with a certificate.

These different approaches ensure that a true sense of wonder and awe is developed