



St Nicholas Priory CEVA Primary School

Christian Ethos and Church School

2025/2026

Introduction

This document outlines the key aspects of what being a church school means at Priory. This is a comprehensive guide to the essential knowledge all staff should have access to regarding our role as a Church of England School.

Our theologically rooted vision

‘I did not come to be served, but to serve.’ Matthew 20.28

Service runs as a golden thread throughout our school, its values and ethos. We believe in service to our children, school community, local community and wider world through a rigorous and exciting curriculum and opportunities to be courageous advocates and an outward looking approach to the world around us.

Our ethos committee summarises service as; ‘Humble service is to look upon school, the wider community, and the world, and to identify what needs to be done and to be willing to make a difference by cheerfully serving our neighbour, following the example of Jesus’.

Our values

We have six values that are lived each day and explored in depth each half term in collective worship. We have a seventh overarching value of kindness that is explored throughout the year alongside the other values.

We believe these values emulate the essence of what a good Christian should evolve as well as providing our children with a strong grounding to be good citizens in the local community and the wider world.

Aspiration
Hope
Forgiveness
Service
Trust
Love
Kindness (overarching value)

Our Ethos - Learn, Love, Serve

We are a part of four families; Priory family, Faith Family, Community Family and our own home family.

Our ethos to love, learn, serve encapsulates the feeling of belonging through **love**, living our values through **service** and our commitment to ensuring all children achieve academically and spiritually through rigorous and engaging opportunities to continually **learn**.

Collective worship

Our daily collective worship enables us to gather in a variety of groupings worshipping in different ways.

Throughout the week the children will be invited to worship in classes, year groups and phases. They will worship through song, celebration, bible stories, exploration of being a courageous advocate and through virtual Minster-led worships.

Collective worship is a time to come together, be still, ponder, explore, wonder, celebrate and reflect.

RE

RE is a key part of our curriculum with dedicated RE weeks allowing pupils to explore a half termly big question. Children explore a question over multiple sessions within an RE week to enable intense, in-depth exploration with creative outcomes.

Our teaching process is to Engage, Explore, Explain, Express, and Evaluate. RE lessons provide a safe space for children to openly express ideas and ask questions. Discussion and creative expression is highly encouraged throughout.

Spirituality

Our pupils explore spirituality through the concept of;
In, Out, Up.

In - looking into yourself, your beliefs and who you are

Out - looking out to others and the wider world, making sense of the world and your place within it

Up - thinking about things that are greater than ourselves, the bigger unexplained questions of the world.

We see spirituality as moments of awe, wonder, curiosity and reflection.

Courageous advocacy

Courageous advocacy is taking action to make a change in the local, national or global community. This is seen across the school within our curriculum, child-led groups, collective worship and the external awards we have achieved, such as Rights Respecting schools and Global Neighbours. Courageous advocacy is closely linked to our value of service and our theologically rooted vision.

RE Leaders

From year 2-6 RE leaders are allocated to support collective worship throughout the week. The upper key stage 2 children help to host the collective worship. All children take on responsibility to set up, lead and support worship across the school.