

What is a Church of England School?

In essence a Church of England school is a community school with a distinctive Christian character....



‘Growing together, rooted in God, fullness of life.’

'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.' (Colossians 2:7)

Long before the government became involved in providing education for everyone in our country, the Church of England had a vision that it wanted every parish to have a school for the education of poor children.

Today, approximately a quarter of all primary schools have a Church of England foundation.

Here at Aston Rowant Church of England School our Christian vision, *'Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.'* (Colossians 2:7), is the foundation stone on which our school vision is built,

‘Growing together, rooted in God, fullness of life.’

It drives all the decisions we make, enabling us to work together with one purpose, to ensure children and adults flourish at this school.

It was always intended that Church schools should be open to all of the children of the parish.



The schools are not ‘faith schools’ in the sense of presuming that children are practising Christians, or attempting to make converts of them. However, the ethos of the schools is based on distinctively Christian values and they will offer children an experience of faith through collective worship and links with the parish church.



Religious Education in Church schools will always include teaching about other faiths and they will usually follow the same syllabus for RE as non-Church schools.

What differences should you notice?

As a pupil, parent, visitor or member of staff you should find your Church school is as good as any other good school, but you should feel that the way in which the school works is different and distinctive. That distinctive difference will be rooted in Christian values that affect the way everyone behaves and in the way everyone is respected. Every child and adult associated with the school is not just important because they are members of the school but also because they are seen as unique individuals within God’s creation.

Around the school, there will be signs and symbols which reflect the Christian heritage on which the school is built. There may also be areas for reflection which contain school prayers and prayers that the children have created themselves.



Church schools are encouraged to:

- ensure that the school is led by a headteacher who is committed to establish and maintain the Christian character of the school
- engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day
- offer school life that incorporates the values of the Christian faith
- ensure that religious education is given at least 5% of school time
- observe the major Christian festivals and in schools in which other faiths are present, ensure that those faiths are able and encouraged to mark their major festivals with integrity



- maintain and develop an active and affirming relationship with the parish church.

