

What is a Church of England School?

'*Deeply Christian Serving the Common Good*' is the Church of England's vision for education. This vision is at the heart of all Church of England Schools and is what makes them distinctively different from other schools in the community.

Like all schools, Church of England schools seek to promote excellence and academic rigour; however, at the heart of this is a desire for 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) and so children in both Collective Worship and Religious Education (RE) lessons learn about the Christian faith and how it makes a difference to the lives of Christians. Children also learn about other world faiths as part of their RE which broadly represents five percent of the whole school curriculum.

Children will also experience an education that nurtures spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Development of children's character has a strong focus in all church schools. Children need to be resilient learners, who make positive choices and have a strong sense of social justice if they are to flourish in our rapidly changing world.

Most Church of England schools have strong links with their parish church. At Lymington Infants children regularly attend St Thomas' church to celebrate the main Christian festivals. Peter Salisbury, the vicar of St Thomas' leads us in Collective Worship each week and involves himself fully in the life of the school. This link helps deepen children's appreciation of what it means to be a Christian and helps them understand the significance of Christian signs and symbols on display both in school and in church.

When you visit Lymington Infants, you should feel that the way our school works is different to non-church schools in the community. We are not a 'faith school' and so do not require families to be practising Christians, however, our ethos is based on distinctively Christian values. Our core values of Love, Courage and Respect are rooted in scripture and it is these values which shape our provision for each child in our school.

Our aim is for our children to have the necessary wisdom, knowledge and skills to thrive in an ever-changing world. Our school mission statement '*Exploring the Future Together*' embodies the hope and aspiration we have for our whole community and the school's commitment to positive relationships and living well together.

We would love you to come and see for yourself so please do make contact the Admin Office should you wish to visit us.

There follows some technical information about how Church schools are funded, managed and maintained and the difference between Voluntary Aided (VA) and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools. Lymington Infants is a Voluntary Aided CE School.

Types of Church of England School		
Area	Voluntary Aided (Aided by the Local Authority)	Voluntary Controlled (Controlled by the Local Authority)
Buildings	Owned by trustees. The trust deed determines the basis on which the school is run. Playing fields are provided by the LA.	
	New building and repairs are the responsibility of the governors who must provide 10% towards all costs.	All replacement, repairs and other building costs fall on the LA.
Teaching Staff	Appointed and employed by the governors, paid by the LA.	Appointed by the governors, employed and paid by the LA.
	Governors are bound by National agreements.	Governors are bound by National agreements and LA appointing policies.
	Governors may seek evidence of Christian commitment from applications for teaching posts.	Governors are able to satisfy themselves that a candidate for the post of headteacher is suitable to support and develop the ethos of a Voluntary Controlled school.
Support Staff	Employed either by governors or contractors. If employed by governors they are paid by LA.	Employed either by LA or contractors. LA employees usually appointed by governors.
Worship	Reflects the Anglican tradition and can include worship in the parish church.	
Religious Education	Governors may make use of the diocesan syllabus, where this exists, or the LA syllabus.	The school must follow the LA syllabus unless the parents request a denominational one. The foundation governors have rights in the appointment of staff (called reserved teachers) to teach denominational RE.
	They may determine a syllabus that reflects the Anglican traditions. They may make use of the diocesan syllabus, where this exists, or the LA syllabus.	
Governing body	Church (foundation) governors have an absolute majority over all other governors. A proportion of foundation governors must also be parents.	Church (foundation) governors are in a minority.
	Parish priest is usually an ex officio member of the governing body. All governors combine to elect the Chair.	