

## School's Ethos Statement

Since 1999 every maintained school has a constitutional document called the 'Instrument of Government'. The Instruments of schools with a 'religious character' contain a statement of ethos which describes the identity and purpose of the school.

Nationally, there are about 4,800 schools (Voluntary Aided or Voluntary Controlled) which share a common **Church of England** identity and so use a common Ethos Statement (or one very like it).

This is the Ethos Statement of our Church of England School:

***Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level.***

***The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.***

## ***Church of England Ethos Statement:***

### **Background Note**

*The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998* required all governing bodies to submit information to their LEA for incorporation into the school's new Instrument of Government. Information included the definitive name of the school governing body, the number of governors (calculated on the basis of category and size of school) and information as to which body appoints some governors (inc foundation governors).

Schools with a religious character were also asked to submit an **Ethos Statement** which became part of the Instrument.

As part of the school's Instrument of Government, the Ethos Statement is a foundational statement of the school's identity and what it stands for. It should therefore be prominent in school literature and widely circulated to staff, governors, parents and all with an interest in the school. Inclusion in entrance hall display, website and prospectus etc. would be very appropriate.

All Church of England Schools, VA and VC, were advised by their dioceses to adopt a common statement. Unless at the time a governing body specifically agreed an amended version with the Diocesan Board (as a few did), the Ethos Statement below is the one appended to your school's Instrument of Government.

