



CHRISTIANITY AT BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S SCHOOL: AN OVERVIEW

We believe that Christianity is an integral part of every aspect of our daily lives at Brigstock Primary School. In our SIAMS inspection, the opening sentence of the report recognises this-

'The positive impact of the distinctively Christian ethos upon all members of the school community is evident...'

Visitors and inspectors have recognised the positive impact of our strong Christian ethos on our learners and in our recent SIAMS our school was judged to be **OUTSTANDING**.

Most important to us is that Christian values underpin all of our learning, and enable our children to become caring, respectful and thoughtful members of our community. We actively encourage the children to uphold our values at all times and we have school values on display, both in classrooms and in the hall. Parents and visitors to our school recognise that our strong values help to nurture the wellbeing, safety and confidence of our children.

We have a values-led worship plan which is available for you to read on this website. Worship plays an important part in our school day. We aim for worship to be integral to our work within school, rather than stand-alone sessions. This has been recognised by visitors to our school, who have commented positively on the impact of worship-

'Worship is inclusive, lively and inspiring. Themes are based upon the school's values and have direct impact on daily school life with children talking about them in subsequent discussions and lessons. They also prompt pupils to respond readily to local, national and international issues.'
(SIAMS)

RE is taught in discrete sessions, and our children have access to a broad and balanced RE curriculum. Children are given the opportunity to explore inter-faith values and appreciate cultural diversity. We enhance our RE curriculum with extra units of work based on 'Understanding Christianity', and we have had several Day 10 units which have raised the profile of Christianity in a visual and creative way. Our hall has a 2metre stained glass cross which has been designed and made by our children, and other displays have raised the profile of Christianity within our school as well as adding meaning and relevance. You can read more in the section on Christian projects.

Within the school day, the children have regular opportunities for prayer and reflection. The Art Club created a prayer tree for the hall, and all can hang prayers and special thoughts onto its branches; it also provides a focal point for prayer-time in assembly. Our children are very involved in creating their own prayers; we have books of prayers written and chosen by the children, and these are used regularly in assemblies. The children say prayers at lunch-times, and Key Stage 2 children write their own special prayers for this time. Each classroom also has a quiet, reflective area to allow children a time of quiet in the busy school day if needed. In Key Stage 2, the children write their own 'Thought of the Day', and all enjoy sharing these within the class. Visitors to our school often comment on the spiritual maturity of our children and their ability to discuss their thoughts and beliefs with adults and their peers.



Everything about our prayer tree encourages us to reflect on our lives in a calm and thoughtful way. We designed it carefully, so that it is meaningful for the children of our school. It includes many Christian symbols- you can find the lamb, the cross, the fish, the Trinity, the dove. It also has symbols of Light, with candles and stained glass. We included symbols of Nature, to symbolise the natural beauty all around us. We chose special poems, thoughtful phrases and bible quotes, to encourage us to think and reflect. We used the circles to symbolise the circle of life, and never-ending love.

We have blank leaves at the side of our tree. If children have a special person that they would like to be included in our prayers, they can write their name on a leaf. They could also use the leaves to record special thoughts or messages.

We give a high priority to displaying work in our school, and encourage all children to achieve their best by valuing the work that they do. In each class there is a dedicated RE display and prayer space, and all classes have their class RE symbol clearly displayed.



We never lose sight of the importance of our faith in all the work we do; it defines our school and helps our children to achieve and to be happy, successful and prepared for every 'next stage' of their education.