



The Nethersole Church of England Academy

Church school distinctiveness and the Christian life of the Nethersole Academy Induction booklet for new pupils

Welcome to our school. As a church school we value our distinctive ethos to which all members contribute. Your child is special to God and is therefore special to us all here, too.

Relationship with the church

We belong to Polesworth Abbey and are supported in our work by the vicar, Father Philip Wells.



In addition, we are a sponsored academy, sponsored by the Church of England Birmingham via the Diocese of Birmingham Educational Trust (DBET).

We are proud of our foundation; the school was formed in 1638 by the Nethersole family and we are the oldest school in the Birmingham Diocese.

We visit the church for a service monthly and for all Christian festivals, and as part of the RE curriculum. In addition, Father Philip leads worship in school every Thursday.

We enjoy links with the wider family of church schools via DBET and our attendance at the annual year six leavers' service in the Cathedral.

We are also pleased to be able to support the church family abroad (in Malawi), by praying for them and contributing to collections.

Our values

The headteacher, governors and staff have recognised that important Christian values underpin our work here. We are guided by the values outlined by the National Society: Creation, Thankfulness, Reverence, Trust, Compassion, Forgiveness, Hope, Humility, Endurance, Friendship, Peace, Justice, Service and Wisdom. The gospels show how Jesus lived his life by these values. Each week we have a particular value that we focus on as a school. These values are displayed around the school.

These values can be seen in the life of the school in the following ways:

- Behaviour policy: we ask children to seek forgiveness for their actions
- We show compassion towards all – no matter what their backgrounds, even if these challenge our own beliefs. We are an inclusive school who take all children into our family as long as we can sufficiently meet their needs

- Friendship is essential in our school, not only between children but between adults. We use peer mediators to support children who are experiencing difficulties

Worship and prayer

Worship and prayer are seen as central to what we do at the Nethersole Church of England Academy.

The whole school meets together for collective worship 5 times a week at 10.25am and children worship in class before lunch (saying the Grace) and at the end of the day (reciting the Lord's Prayer). These acts of worship are led by members of staff, Father Philip and visitors. All children are invited to attend this time of day which is a valuable time of reflection, shared experience and inspiration. We invite parents to worship with us on certain occasions, these being all major Christian festivals, which we hold at the Polesworth Abbey.

Pupils are encouraged to take an active role too by laying the worship table, assisting with the projector, leading prayers, reading the Bible, leading worship and acting as actors to bring alive the Gospel readings!

We want to encourage children to discover the power of prayer and time spent with God. There are also places where children can come for a quiet moment. A prayer box is found in classrooms and prayers from here are taken by Father Philip. We also have a Prayer Room for personal reflection.

Relationships in school

All these aspects of our school life are very important, but there are other aspects which are just as vital to our school but which are not as easy to portray. These include good relationships with an emphasis upon seeking and receiving forgiveness and respect for integrity. Our behaviour policy states clearly how we regard children and how we endeavour to encourage them to adopt the best kind of behaviour for the wellbeing of the school community.

We want you to feel welcome in our school as a pupil or a parent. This is your school! If you have any concerns please speak to a member of staff. We are pleased to support you as a family with issues that might be affecting you out of school. At times we all suffer difficulties, including financial ones. We are here to help. If you fall on hard times please speak to us and we can put you in touch with local charities that can support you both practically and financially.

All of the children are welcome here in the school whether they come from a Christian family, a family of a different faith, or a family with no particular faith background. We would like this to be a place where all can flourish and where children, and adults, have the opportunities to learn about the Christian faith, but to have the chance to practice their family faith without fear of prejudice or bullying.

As our children come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds, we like to respect them by having displays and artefacts that represent their traditions. In doing this we are recognising that their faith is just as important to them as the Christian faith is to the life of the school.

