

All of these values should permeate the whole of the life of the school and its curriculum.

There are however, certain areas within which they would have a particular focus:

- ◆ The schools Admissions Policy and its implementation.
- ◆ The conduct of staff interviewing and appraisal.
- ◆ The Behaviour Policy.
- ◆ The policies for Religious Education and Personal, Social and Moral Education.
- ◆ The conduct of the school's daily act of Collective Worship. This is the time when the school both celebrates and renews the values by which it lives.

Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Education



Guidance for Newly Appointed Diocesan Foundation Governors

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The majority of Church of England Schools were established in the 19th Century. The purpose of most of them was to provide education for the children of the local inhabitants or, as referred to in some schools' Trust Deeds, "the poor of the Parish". The religious teaching was to be "according to the practice of the Church of England".

The 1944 Education Act changed the legal situation in respect of **Church Controlled Schools**:

- ◆ **Religious Education** is required to be taught according to the Local Education Authority's Agreed Syllabus, but
- ◆ **Collective Worship** must still be according to the Trust Deed of the school and is the responsibility of the Governors, in consultation with the Headteacher.

Schools should think clearly about the meaning of their religious foundation in today's changing social and educational situation. OFSTED inspection requirements make it important for Church Schools to define their aims. This leaflet makes some suggestions about key areas where Christian aims and philosophy impinge upon the values and day-to-day life of the school.

The Christian insight is that each one of us is precious in the sight of God and that, as individuals, we are most fulfilled when we learn to share in the life of the community and serve others within it. Our Lord's command was that we should "love God and love our neighbour as ourselves".

Each Church School should therefore aim to bring these *spiritual* insights into the daily life of the school.

The Values at the heart of the life of the school need to be constantly reviewed as the school community changes and develops. As a Governor of a Church School, you may find that a number of the following points emerge as key areas for the Governors as a whole:

- ◆ A concern for the personal development of each member of the school community through effective pastoral and management structures.
- ◆ A readiness to conduct Christian Worship in ways that are inclusive of the whole community and a readiness to offer opportunities for reflection and spiritual growth to both children and staff.
- ◆ An awareness of the importance of developing links with the local clergy and worshipping community.
- ◆ A Concern for the wholeness of the curriculum through an effective balance of National Curriculum entitlement, Religious Education and spiritual, cultural, moral and social development.
- ◆ A respect for the opinions, faith, race and gender of all people.
- ◆ The development of Equal Opportunities for all people.
- ◆ Openness in decision making, through consultation and discussion.
- ◆ A Concern for justice in the policies, decisions and relationships that affect pupils, parents, staff and Governors, recognising that good relationships build up the common life of the school.
- ◆ A concern for quality in leadership at all levels, as the means by which the aims of the school are most clearly demonstrated.
- ◆ A recognition that the aims of the school need to be reflected in decisions concerning the budget.
- ◆ A recognition of the place of the school in the life of the surrounding community and a concern for parents and children who find it difficult to approach or understand the education system.