Technical Information

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 Head Teacher 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. 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.	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.
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.	

What else?

Church schools are encouraged to:

- ensure that the school is led by a Head Teacher who is committed, with the help of staff, to establish and maintain the Christian character of the school in its day to day activities and in the curriculum
- engage meaningfully in a real act of Christian worship every day
- offer a school life that incorporates the values of the Christian faith
- ensure that religious education is given at least 5% of school time and that the character and quality of religious education are a particular concern of the Head Teacher and the governing body
- observe the major Christian festivals and in schools in which other faiths are present, ensure that those faiths are able and encouraged to mark their major festivals with integrity
- maintain and develop an active and affirming relationship with a parish church
- proclaim that it is a Church of England school on its external signboard and on its stationery and make appropriate use of Christian symbols inside and outside the school.

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DIOCESE of WINCHESTER

Diocese of Portsmouth

What is a Church of England School?

"A community school with a distinctive Christian character."

Long before the government became involved in providing education for everyone in our country, the Church of England had a vision that it wanted every parish to have a school for the education of poor children.

By 1900, there were 5,700 state-funded schools and 14,000 schools funded by the Church of England.

Today, approximately a quarter of all primary schools have a Church of England foundation, through which they strive to provide the highest standard of education possible, in partnership with the state.

What is added by being a Church of England school?

From the earliest days, the purpose of Church schools was to enable children to flourish by providing a basic education and by developing their moral character.

It was always intended that Church schools should be open to all of the children of the parish. The schools are not ‘faith schools’ in the sense of presuming that children are practising Christians or attempting to make converts of them.

However, the ethos of the schools is based on distinctively Christian values and they will offer children an experience of faith through collective worship and links with the parish church.

Religious Education in Church schools will always include teaching about other faiths and they will usually follow the same syllabus for RE as non-Church schools.

Since 2010, some Church schools have been converted into academies. However, this process entails a new way of managing the school apart from the Local Authority and makes no difference to the way in which the foundation ethos of the school is lived out on a day-to-day basis.

Froxfield CofE Primary School Prayer

This is our school,
May we all love happily together,
May our school be full of joy,
May love grow here among us every day,
Love of one another,
Love of all people everywhere,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.
As many hands built this school.
So everyone can make this school a lovely place.

Amen

What is added by being a Church of England school?

Church schools have Christian beliefs and values at their heart. This means that every child and adult associated with the school is not just important because they are members of the school but also because they are seen as unique individuals within God’s creation.

A church school might have a motto such as “No one left behind!” and the reason would be that everyone is seen as so valuable in God’s eyes that everyone must be supported and encouraged to be the very best they can be.

Church schools recognise that as well as academic and emotional intelligence, human beings also have spiritual intelligence. The spiritual aspects of life will be recognised, and nurtured alongside the academic and emotional needs of all.

Church of England schools are places where questioning of belief and non belief is encouraged as we all try to make sense of the world, the gift of life and the purpose of our own personal lives.

Although we live in an increasingly secular society, the values of our country have their roots in the Christian faith. Church schools continue to celebrate this as an aspect of the heritage which enables them to be successful places of learning for children of all faiths and none.

What differences should you notice?

Across the Portsmouth and Winchester dioceses, there are over 30,000 children being educated every day in a Church of England school.

As a pupil, parent, visitor or member of staff you should find your Church school is as good as any other good school but you should feel that the way in which the school works is different and distinctive.

That distinctive difference will be rooted in Christian values that affect the way everyone behaves and in the way everyone is respected.

Around the school, there will be signs and symbols which reflect the Christian heritage on which the school is built. There may also be areas for reflection which contain school prayers and prayers that the children have created themselves. Additionally, there will be a much greater emphasis on links with the local parish church than would usually be the case in a non-Church school.

However, none of the above should be taken as indicators that Christian beliefs are being enforced. They are ways in which Church schools encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promote Christian values through the experience that they offer all pupils.