

JOINTLY MANAGED CHURCH SCHOOLS PRINCIPLES

CHRISTIAN VISION OF EDUCATION – CHRIST THE MODEL AND INSPIRATION

The Christian vision of education today and its core values are rooted in Scriptural faith and take their inspiration from the person and the teaching of Christ. Christian faith permeates everything that takes place within the school community. It touches upon every subject, every activity that is engaged in and every relationship. It enriches not only the curriculum but the manner in which it is taught. It shapes the environment of the school which will be evidently Christian. It becomes the defining spirit of the school.

Christian education within Jointly Managed Church Schools:

- serves the community in placing the pupil at the centre;
- recognises in each pupil someone created in the image and likeness of God, with a dignity and destiny that transcend all other values;
- develops the potential of every pupil as a human being;
- develops the formation of the whole person spiritually, socially, physically, morally and intellectually;
- prepares pupils to engage as responsible members of society, motivated by the Gospel, personal integrity and moral courage, which are the hallmarks of an authentic Christian personality.

Jointly Managed Church Schools:

- reflect the foundational Christian value of the revelation of God and humankind's response, through our concern for, and attitude to, others and the world in which we live;
- offer an understanding of the world and the place of humanity in it within the context of belief in God and the Christian faith;
- reflect this understanding in daily worship and by the values espoused by the schools;
- reflect this understanding in the relationships which the schools seek to promote at all levels;
- foster tolerance of and respect for the beliefs and rights of others of different religious faiths or none;
- help to support families in fulfilling the responsibility to bring up that child in the Christian faith;
- promote excellence in teaching and learning;

- foster a sense of community in which people respect each other and care for each other;
- welcome diversity and strive for tolerance and inclusivity, while maintaining their own distinctive characteristic.

Gospel values inform the life of Jointly Managed Church Schools, which are fully integrated into the local faith communities. A Jointly Managed Church School is a sign of the reconciliation and shared discipleship that the Gospel brings.

CORE VALUES

The vision of Christian education encourages the inclusion of core values within the life of the school and its community, based upon Scripture, respective traditions of the Christian churches and shared Christian understanding, which reflect:

- The rights and responsibilities of the individual;
- Relationships within the school;
- Preparation for adult life.

(i) CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

Jointly Managed Church Schools promote:

- Scriptural understanding and living;
- Love of God and neighbour;
- Community cohesion;
- Forgiveness and reconciliation;
- Charity and neighbourliness;
- Justice, compassion and peace in the world;
- Responsibility in developing and using God-given talents;
- Stewardship of creation.

(ii) CHILD-CENTRED INTEGRAL FORMATION OF THE PUPIL

Jointly Managed Church Schools promote:

- High standards of education;
- Reflection on the purpose of life;
- Safeguarding, welfare and high-quality pastoral care;
- The intrinsic value of the individual;
- A sense of self-worth and self-esteem;
- The nurturing of young people in Christian faith and hope;
- Life-long learning;

- The acceptance that rights and privileges bring responsibilities;
- The role of conscience in discerning right or wrong attitudes and actions.

(iii) INTERRELATIONSHIP LEVEL

Jointly Managed Church Schools promote:

- Respect for the dignity and rights of every person in the school community and in wider society;
- Faithfulness in relationships;
- Friendship / loyalty;
- Appreciation of individual differences;
- Mutual understanding, tolerance and a capacity to share;
- Interdependence and teamwork;
- Fairness / equity of opportunity;
- Honesty / integrity;
- Caring attitudes;
- Positive ways of resolving conflict.

(iv) PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIFE

Jointly Managed Church Schools promote:

- Opportunities for growing in relationship with God;
- Responsible citizenship and lifelong Christian living;
- Exploration of the values which build community;
- The value of supportive family relationships;
- The development of social skills;
- Commitment to care for the environment;
- A willingness to challenge injustice;
- An appreciation of the Christian heritage in this land and in the world;
- An appreciation of culture and the arts;
- An appreciation of the richness of cultural and religious traditions.

SUMMARY

Jointly Managed Church Schools are responsive to the needs of local communities, providing a rich and educationally effective foundation based on the enduring values and teachings of Christ. They offer a positive and forward-looking approach to the holistic formation of children, to enable them to become confident and caring members of society.