

# Cavendish Church of England Primary School

Challenge, Creativity, Compassion: Create a pure heart in me – Psalm 51:10



## Governors' Newsletter

March 2023

Focus on our Church School

### Values for life

I was recently asked why should children attending a Church of England Primary School learn about, and visit, places of worship that are not Christian.

Well as someone who has spent many years living and working in India, where those who are Christian make up a minority (around 2.5% of the population) I recognise the importance of understanding and respecting the beliefs of all people of faith, indeed also those who profess to have no faith.

In today's diverse and multicultural society, I feel it is increasingly important for children to learn about different cultures, religions, and traditions. Visiting places of worship such as mosques, gurdwaras, and temples, as some of our children recently have, can be a great way for children to gain a better understanding of the beliefs and practices of other faiths. Not only does this help to promote tolerance and respect, but it can also help children to develop a deeper appreciation for their own faith.

One of the key reasons why it is important for children to visit places of worship of other faiths is to also learn about British values. These values, which include respect for democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, are central to the school curriculum. Visiting different places of worship can help children to understand how these values are put into practice in different faith communities.

For example, a visit to a mosque can help children to learn about the Islamic practice of praying five times a day and the importance of charity and compassion in the Muslim faith. Similarly, a visit to gurdwara can help children to learn about the Sikh practice of sharing food with others and the importance of equality and

'On our school trip we looked at ancient and special symbols, there were very cool. It was a really good trip. I learnt that Sikhs have a special book and at night time they wrap it up and put it to bed'.  
Oliver - Year 3

justice in the Sikh faith. These experiences can help to broaden children's understanding of how different faiths express their beliefs and values, and can help them to see how these values can be applied in their own lives.

Furthermore, visiting places of worship can help children to develop a greater sense of empathy and understanding towards those of different faiths. When children are exposed to different cultures and traditions, they are less likely to make assumptions or stereotypes about people based on their religion or ethnicity. Instead, they can develop a greater appreciation for the diversity of our society and learn to embrace different perspectives and beliefs.

Of course, it is important to approach these visits with sensitivity and respect. Teachers and parents should work together to ensure that children understand the importance of respecting the beliefs and traditions of others. They should also be prepared to answer any questions that children may have about other faiths, and to encourage open-minded discussion and reflection.

It is also important to note that these visits are not intended to undermine or challenge a child's own faith. On the contrary, these experiences can help children to develop a deeper appreciation for their own religious traditions by allowing them to see how other faiths express their beliefs and values. By visiting different places of worship, children can gain a greater understanding of the diversity of religious expression and the richness of our collective spiritual heritage.

As we live in a part of the country where there is a relatively small ethnic diversity, allowing our children first hand opportunities to meet with more culturally diverse communities, will help our children to develop empathy and understanding towards others, which in turn can help to promote a more harmonious and inclusive society.

The Revd Mark Woodrow, Foundation Governor



Focus on Premises Management

### Cherishing our Heritage

As a member of the Governing Body Premises Committee, I am jointly responsible for ensuring that the School Premises are kept in good repair and condition, that the buildings, equipment and materials are safe and do not put the health or safety of persons at risk while they are on the premises.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to let you know of some exciting news that is going to be undertaken at the school shortly. During the school premises meeting it was agreed that the staffroom was going to be refurbished. This is well overdue as the current staff room has not been modernised for many years and is looking a bit tired. With newly painted walls, new flooring and new kitchen complete with microwave, this work will help to transform this room into a well-deserved rest place for the staff and teachers. But the good news doesn't stop there. We are looking at replacing the carpets in the school hall and carrying out re-decoration of the hall and corridor. This will create a new feel to the school and help to promote wellbeing in the pupils and staff. With the newly installed windows in the hall, we are going to re-decorate this area too, making good around the windows and a fresh lick of paint will help enrich this area. Following the works we will attach pictures of our new areas for everyone to see.

Phil Dorrell, Co-opted Governor



New Windows in our Hall

## Your Governing Body Needs You!

Enthusiastic, dedicated, committed to team work and with time to spare? We will soon be recruiting for a new Parent Governor and if you would like to find out more about becoming a school governor and the skills, time and commitment required, then please contact the School Office in the first instance, and we will be pleased to arrange an informal discussion with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.