

Citation for the Bishop of Birmingham Award for Living the Christian Vision 2021 Christ Church CE Primary School

Christian vision:

As God loves everyone, our vision at Christ Church is for all in our family to feel equal, valued and prepared for life in modern British society.

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)

Awarded for:

Celebrating difference and treasuring the individuality of each

Celebrating difference reflects Jesus's embodiment of God's love and grace which is emphasised in the vision for each person in their individuality. In the school, every aspect of the child including language, culture, gender, ethnicity, spirituality and talents is affirmed. Children are taught to be compassionate to all, regardless of who they are, what they look like and whatever their background. Believing that all children are created uniquely by God, the school celebrates their God-given talents through all aspects of school life and extra-curricular events, in an inclusive environment. 'Believe and Achieve' workshop days are successful in bringing communities together, with children having the opportunity to share their unique talents and languages.

Through the life of the school, children learn to develop humility, wisdom and demonstrate non-judgmental love. The intentional programme, starting with the holistic taught curriculum, is enhanced by celebration of Inter-faith week, inspiring and diverse acts of worship, Faith Encounter days and educational visits. This enables children to build solid relationships with others of all faith backgrounds and none.

A strong emphasis on celebrating difference at Christ Church has been transformational because everyone in the school community feels equal, valued and cared for. This, in turn, is helping to shape normative behaviour in the wider community. The school has created a welcoming ethos where difference is accepted and celebrated. Requests from parents for catering for specific requirements for their children, and time to pray and are heard and implemented.

The school is willing to share this strong practice by inviting colleagues and children to the school, virtually during celebration events, or by liaising at training days.

+ David Birmingham

