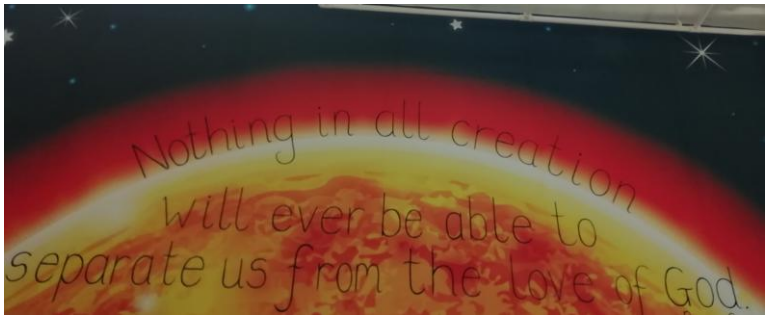
St. Paul's Church of England Primary School

Hibson Rd, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 0PY

Headteacher: Mrs J Wood Telephone: 01282 617035

www.stpaulsnelson.co.uk



We teach our children to:
Love God, Love Themselves, Love Others, Love Learning.

What does it mean to attend our Church of England Voluntary Aided School?

Our school serves a diverse community and we welcome and fully include everyone, regardless of faith/ no faith/ culture/ ethnicity. However, we are also a strongly distinctive Christian school and it is important that parents/ carers agree with our Christian ethos before electing to enrol their child.

Frequently asked questions:

What are the advantages of attending a Church of England school?

At St Paul's, we believe that our Christian ethos holds many benefits for families of all faiths or none. Our strong Christian beliefs, and Christian values of love, joy, perseverance, forgiveness, justice, respect and hope, underpin our traditional, moral ethos resulting in consistently good behaviour from children and a great deal of care, warm relationships and firm boundaries from our staff.

How is the leadership of our Church of England school different to a non-church school?

The leadership of a Blackburn Diocese Church of England school is distinctly Christian.

All the most senior staff (headteacher, deputy headteacher, assistant headteachers) must be Christians, providing a faith reference from a priest/ vicar/ minister of a Christian "Churches Together" in order to be appointed.

The Governing Board is comprised of 7 foundation governors, who are appointed by St Paul's Parochial Church Council, the headteacher, 1 staff governor elected by staff, 1 Education Authority governor appointed by the LA, and 2 parent governors elected by parents. As you will see, of the 12 governor roles, there will always be at least 8 governors who follow the Christian faith (7 foundation governors and the headteacher).

Is there Christian worship?

Yes. We hold an act of Christian worship every day. We are sensitive to other religions, and try to include them where possible (eg discussing which aspects of Christianity Islam has in common) but it is important that parents note that worship is Christian in nature, as is expected in any Christian faith school. Worship involves singing Christian songs and joining in with Christian prayers as well as a Christian message.

Will my child solely learn about Christianity?

No. In our fully inclusive curriculum, we teach about other faiths in RE such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. We also include other faiths, cultures and ethnicities within subjects other than RE.

Will the school have a greater focus on Christian celebrations compared to other religions?

Yes. As a Christian faith school, our Blackburn Diocese RE curriculum is heavily weighted towards Christianity and our worship is solely Christian. As such, Christian celebrations such as Christmas and Easter are distinctively and wholly celebrated.

Are other religions celebrated?

Yes. As we have a large Muslim population, we celebrate Eid in order for our Muslim children, families and staff to be able to share an aspect of their faith with us and to demonstrate that their faith is valued. However, due to the weighting of Christianity through our Christian ethos and curriculum, Christmas and Easter have a heavier focus.

Is it possible to avoid learning about Christianity?
No. Our Christian ethos permeates through everything that we do, not just in worship and RE lessons. We respect and value all other religions but parents must be aware that St Paul's is a Christian faith school. Christianity permeates through the curriculum and could crop up during the teaching of national curriculum subjects and more, such as discussing a book character's actions in literacy, discussing what is right or wrong in PSHE or when discussing forgiveness after a playtime falling out. If parents strongly feel that Christianity is not what they want their child to experience in school, they may wish to consider if St Paul's is the right school for them.

What is expected of parents?

You do not have to be Christian - we welcome all here. However, please ensure that you agree with our ethos before enrolling your child and that henceforward you fully support us, building warm relationships with us based on our Christian values of: love, joy, perseverance, forgiveness, justice, hope and respect.

We hope that this has given parents and carers an overview of what it's like to attend our Christian school and we hope to welcome families of all faiths and none through our doors.

school achievement award
department for education and skills