

Lighthouse Federation
Ethos and Community Committee
Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Ethos and Community committee will promote the key features of church school distinctiveness as outlined by the Diocese. Church of England Vision for Education, deeply Christian, serving the common good

The Head Teacher is committed to the Christian character of the Church of England school

Collective Worship with distinctive Christian elements every day

Excellence in Religious Education

Observance of Christian festivals and the seasons of the church year

Active and affirming relationships with local churches

In addition, the committee will be responsible for fostering good relationships with parents/carers and the local community.

Membership

The Committee shall comprise of at least 3 Governors at least one of whom has specific, relevant skills and experience. The Committee may have in addition such non-voting members as the Governing Body shall appoint. The Governing Body may remove or replace a member of the Committee at any time. It is recommended that the RE subject leader is a member of the committee. Groups of children may be invited to attend part of each meeting or submit their views and to facilitate discussions.

Quorum

The quorum shall be three Governors or 1/3 rounded up, whichever is the greater

Meetings

The Committee shall meet as agreed at the beginning of the academic year. Any decisions taken must be determined by a majority of votes of committee members present and voting but no vote can be taken unless a majority of those present are governors.

Chairing

The Full Governing Body will appoint a Committee Chair at its first meeting held in the Autumn Term. The Staff Governor may not hold the position of Chair.

Clerk

A clerk will be appointed to the committee to ensure that accurate minutes of the meeting are taken. In the absence of the clerk the committee shall choose a clerk from among their number (someone who is not the head teacher.)

The draft minutes of each meeting will be circulated with the agenda for the next ordinary meeting of the full governing body and will be presented to the meeting by the chair (or in his/her absence by a member of the committee.)

Voting

All members of the Committee may vote at committee meetings

Frequency of review

The terms of Reference will be reviewed by the committee on an annual basis. Changes will be approved by the Full Governing Body.

Delegated powers

The Committee is authorised to invite attendance at its meetings from persons to assist or advise on a particular matters including members of staff or governors.

Key Responsibilities

Ethos

1. To ensure that all school leaders contribute to sustaining, developing and nurturing the school's Christian ethos
2. To ensure the school develops a corporate life which attempts to glorify God in developing the full human potential of each person – whether pupil, member of staff, parent or governor
3. To ensure that Christian values are embedded in the daily life of the school.
4. To monitor and review the school's self-evaluation, ensuring that this is ongoing and contributes to school improvement and ensures good preparation for and outcomes from a SIAMS inspection.
5. To ensure that the school, through its distinctive Church of England Christian character, meets the needs of all learners.
6. To ensure that the importance of Religious Education is demonstrated.
7. To ensure learning and teaching in Religious Education is effective and progress of pupils is assessed.
8. To ensure Collective Worship inspires and enhances the spiritual development of pupils and staff of all faiths and none.
9. To ensure that all pupils take part in a daily act of collective worship.

10. To ensure school leaders and governor's focus on and use Christian values to promote a distinctive Christian vision for the school.
11. To ensure effective partnership between the schools - including parents -the church and the wider community.
12. To ensure the active promotion of the fundamental British values of democracy, rules of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of with different faith and beliefs.

Community

1. Review procedures for parent consultations, including support for teachers in talking to parents.
2. Conduct learning walks in the school including its reception practice to ensure that it is a welcoming environment.
3. Establish and participate in a Parent Forum or similar engagement where appropriate.
4. Review communication strategy to ensure its effectiveness. This will include:
 - a. Conducting an annual survey of parents, pupils and staff with results and consequent actions for feedback.
 - b. Issuing a regular newsletter directly from the governors or a governor's page as part of the regular school newsletter.
 - c. Contributing articles to the local parish magazine.
5. Review Communications between school and home, community and church.
6. Review Information for Parents.
7. Contribute to the understanding of the mental health and well- being of pupils and staff.
8. Monitor the quality of the school as a learning organisation where pupils and parents are given opportunities to develop confidence and skills
9. Monitor governor attendance at events.
10. Ensure that good induction procedures are in place for staff and pupils and that these are monitored.
11. Monitor and review the effective implementation of the Equality and Diversity Policy.
12. To identify and celebrate pupil achievements.

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