



Ethos Group - Minutes

Minutes of meeting 14/5/26

Present: Mr Thomas, Mrs Leach, SC (Y6), SK (Y5), TM (Y5), HJ (Y4), PE (Y4)

Absent: Mrs Kryviak and Mrs Joy

Today's session focused around monitoring of elements of spiritual development and, specifically, pupil voice. The meeting took place in church. Below follows the notes of the answers that were given. Next steps were not part of the meeting but devised collaboratively between Billy and Chris.

What does it mean to be part of a church school / how does it impact on your lives?

We are part of something. We all get together. Everyone involved. Brings us closer to God. Some believe in Him. We pray. Imagine what it felt to be there – you can imagine it in your mind. It helps you. It helps us learn about other religions too. We process the stories. We didn't learn much about Christian things at my last school and now I feel part of something.

What makes you feel special at school?

Teachers. Friends. Memories. Starting and new chapter.

How do you feel about collective worship?

It makes me feel different emotions and I learn about Christianity. We learn in different ways. I prefer it in class. Not sure – it's the normal thing to do. I've not lived through bible events but when we do Picture News I can connect better to that.

When does it happen?

Everyday. Before lunch. First thing on a Friday. But not when we're on a trip.

What do you know about how different people worship?

Muslims pray 5 times a day at specific times and they have a range of prayers. They have to cleanse themselves. In Christianity prayers can be long or short. With prayer there is not limit and you can pray when you want. People sing to worship

Are children involved in worship?

Yes. Children often put their hands up and can talk. They act out stories, including Open the Book. Do actions. Singing. Say prayers. Children around the world and UK should be involved in CW so they know how to do it when they grow up.

Tell me about prayer. What is it? When do you do it?

Talking to God and asking him to help people. You can pray whenever you want. People pray when they want something. There are traditional prayers but not on a strict basis. Talking to God or thanking Him. You can say it in your head – you just think it. You can ask for things to go well.

Tell me about our vision and what it means to you?

It means lots of different things to different people. Be well – Don't be ill, try to do your best and help others. It means be healthy in body and mind. If you believe in God it's His plan for something to happen. It reminds me of the school and the memories I have here. It is like the motto for school and symbolises that no matter what you are going through, all will be alright. It helps with math and things at home. It helps me to remember.



Offwell C of E Primary School

Our vision: **Be well; Learn well; Live well; Offwell**



Tell me about our values and what they mean to you?

Be brave can be different – it helps you do stuff you are afraid of lots of different things. It is a non-optional option. Instead of losing yourself in your head, it gives meaning.

How are you treated at school?

Well. Fairly. Teachers help. Patiently like when I'm trying to give an answer and I need more time to think. Kindly. With help. All of us are treated fairly and in the same way. Quite positively. If something bad happens, friends have a positive reply, ask to help and they care about me.

What does spirituality mean to you? How do you experience it?

I'm not sure. I experience the bible with stories that I hadn't heard before. It's not your body or brain. The spirit controls your brain, what you do, what you like/don't like. You do it automatically. Sometimes when I drift off, my spirit is drifting off too. Experience it in church. When I've finished my work sometimes my thoughts move on and I can just think.

Next Steps:

- **Develop a framework for spiritual development so that children and staff have a clear understanding of what it means and how to express it.**
- **Further embed understanding of what the vision means (e.g. Be Well about wellbeing rather than just 'not being ill'.**



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