



# Christian Distinctiveness

Supporting spiritual growth for learners, wherever they are on their faith journey, is central to our community life. Prayer and worship are supported by an innovative curriculum where ideas are expressed creatively to develop the spirit and contribute to life in all its fullness. Our school values of Compassion, Forgiveness, Friendship and Trust are embodied in our nurture and encouragement of all.



# Our Christian Ethos

As a Church of England school we are committed to and proud of our Christian distinctiveness and offer an environment that ensures all children experience the highest quality of teaching and learning opportunities. We actively support the spiritual growth of learners wherever they are on their faith journey. Religious Education has a high profile in school life with lessons providing fully for the needs of all learners.

## Community Links

As a Church of England School, we have strong links with our local church, St Cuthbert's and the local community where we engage and lead in many projects. There are many ways in which these links are forged, including school services at the church, community gatherings, after school activity clubs and regular visitors from the church to lead and take part in worship and events. As well as St Cuthbert's where we hold our annual Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers Services we also have close links with other churches in Ackworth: Methodist Church, All Saints and The Community Church.



## The Hidden Curriculum

The curriculum, in its wider sense, offers exceptional opportunity for spiritual development. Quality opportunities for pupils to explore situations of injustice and equality so opening pupils' horizons and broadening first-hand experience, gives them a concern for others and a desire to practically undertake actions that challenge these identified injustices through meaningful social actions. A prominent vehicle for this is through the strong partnerships that we have developed. A broad range of enrichment activities enable pupils to flourish and they are supported to be the change they want to see in the world.



In addition to the range of enrichment experiences for our pupils and the experiences of our 'hidden curriculum,' older pupils benefit from two contrasting residential visits which have been carefully planned for specific purposes to meet the needs of our context and vision. The Year 6 residential to PGL Newby Wiske offers opportunity to develop leadership skills such as team work. Pupils also learn new skills, gain self-confidence and independence, develop their social and interpersonal skills and learn to appreciate the countryside and outdoor opportunities. Year 5 children experience our Northumberland residential which directly promotes the school's distinctiveness as a Church of England school, following in the footsteps of St. Cuthbert and making meaningful links, connection and experiences that promote the Christian vision and values.



## Diocese

Close collaboration with the diocese enhances our practices. Leaders in school share best practice within the diocese and because of this are exposed to best practice from other schools, impacting the development of initiatives such as pupil leadership. Our link with the Diocese also provides learning opportunities for pupils and staff.



## Global Link

The school has a strong and established link with Tanzania. First hand experiences from the Headteachers visit have been utilised within school. The partnership is highly valued by all and is now an integral part of worship, affirming the Christian values we hold dear. Pupils are able to articulate their thoughts and relate globally about life, therefore developing an understanding of disadvantage, deprivation and the exploitation of the natural world in its truest forms. The school is 'working with and learning from' their global Tanzanian friends.



**We are proud of our partnership with Mshikamano (Solidarity) Primary School - Bega Kwa Bega (Shoulder to Shoulder)**

## Worship

As a Church of England school our daily act of Collective Worship is a special time that brings together members of the school community. Our Worship Committee Ministries take an active role in in our worship. The children are very independent when undertaking this responsibility. Worship is led by teachers, children and visitors. During class workshops, families are invited into school and we are extremely grateful for the tremendous parental support that we have. Groups of children are encouraged to prepare, lead and evaluate worship based on one of our themes. These opportunities allow them to gain valuable leadership experience and extend their ability to think and reflect on a wide range of global issues. Our worship is further enhanced by visits from our local incumbent. The children are further challenged to think, ask questions and share their views about the world around them.



## Pupil Leadership

Pupil leadership is the heartbeat of the school. A focus on handing over accountability and genuine advocacy of this has led to pupils living our vision and demonstrating associated attributes such as opportunities to be agents of change, for demonstrating courageous advocacy and affirming what is right, to challenge injustices and to offer radical hospitality. Learners are ambassadors who can make a positive contribution. This focus has also led to pupils feeling more valued as members of the school community, enabling opportunities for children to flourish and for their character development to impact on wider society. Pupils understand that the school advocates that the future is in their hands and we ask them to lead and have accountable independence. They understand that they don't have to wait to give service to others.



## Values

As a church school we promote Christian values in everything we do in school. We like to achieve an extended family atmosphere in school to promote a feeling of belonging to a caring community, which in turn creates confidence and security for the children. We encourage all our parents to have regular contact and discussions with us about all aspects of their children's education. Our core values of Friendship, Forgiveness, Compassion and Trust reflect the aspirations we have for each child, to inspire a high level of spiritual and moral reflection and to challenge our learners to take responsibility for their own actions.



## School Prayer

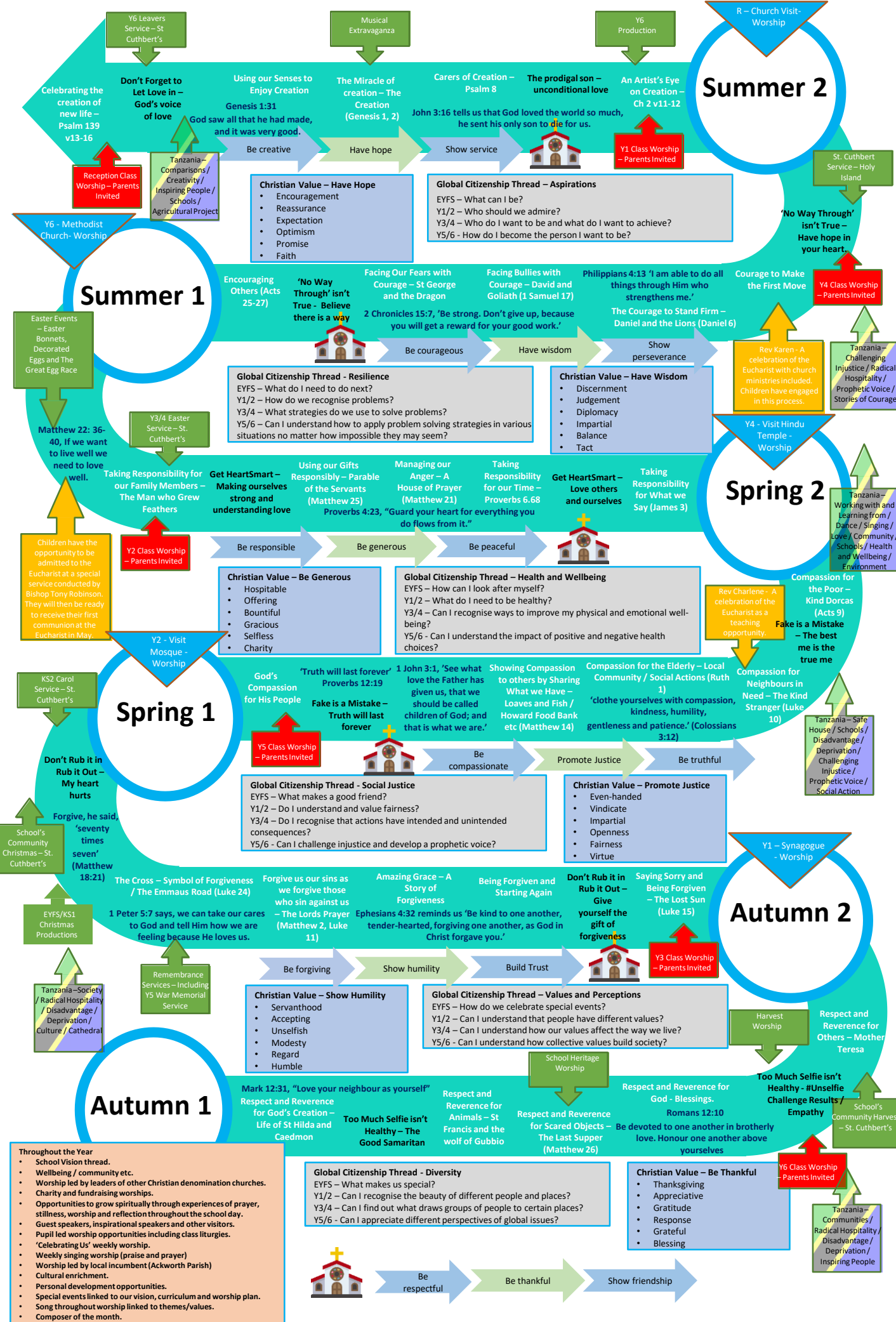
This is our school,  
Where **trust** burns bright.  
Let **compassion** and **forgiveness** begin  
with me  
And **friendship** lay in the depths of our  
hearts,  
Let us love one another each day.  
Amen



# ACKWORTH HOWARD COLLECTIVE WORSHIP JOURNEY 2024-2025 THE HEARTBEAT OF THE SCHOOL



'Providing opportunities for growth in mind, body and spirit.'



**Worship - Christian Values**  
Driven by the vision and values and deeply Christian in its delivery, worship is invitational, inspiring, delivered using a variety of approaches and is an integral part of life and the culture of school. Learners encounter the teachings of Jesus and the Bible and develop their understanding of the Christian belief in the trinitarian nature of God and its language. A carefully planned programme of worship has been developed which links with the church and the wider community to ensure diversity, relevance in today's society and opportunities to engage. Pupils recognise that worship provides meaningful opportunities to contribute to their spiritual development and engage thoughtfully in the process. There are varied and interactive prayer and reflection activities on offer to all pupils which they find helpful and supportive. Links are strong with the local church community and pupils are enabled to engage in the Eucharist in creative and innovative ways, supported by our local incumbent. The school community appreciates the relevance of faith in today's world. Worship is invitational offering everyone the opportunity to engage whilst allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity. All those who wish to be so are actively engaged in worship. Prayer is a natural and valued part of the culture of the school. It is not compulsory or forced.

**Worship - Global Citizenship Threads**  
**DIVERSITY** - Exploring the importance of others and how to love them well is discovered. There is a focus on empathy and exploring the importance of others and how to love them well.  
**VALUES AND PERCEPTIONS** - Understanding how to process negative emotion and choose forgiveness to restore relationships is taught. The focus is forgiveness and learning how to process negative emotion, including disappointment and hurt.  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE** - Unpicking how to bravely communicate truth and be proud of who we are is the focus. Here we explore identity and learn how to be authentic and having the courage to tell the truth when we need to.  
**HEALTH AND WELLBEING** - Understanding the power of looking after our mind, body and spirit to stay physically and emotionally healthy is taught focusing on wholeheartedness, we learn what it is to be HeartSmart and how we can PORN ON to love ourselves and others well.  
**RESILIENCE** - Knowing there is a way through every situation no matter how impossible it may seem is taught. We learn how to develop and maintain a growth mindset.  
**ASPIRATIONS** - Learning how important, valued and loved we are is explored. Children consider self-worth and learn how to love and value themselves well.

**Leading Worship**  
Worship is led by a variety of people including:  
• The Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher  
• A member of staff  
• A visitor: e.g. the Local Rector/Leaders of other Christian denominations.  
• Children.

**Worship Opportunities**  
A variety of whole school and more intimate worship experiences are offered such as:  
• Whole class worship linked to the Christian values, global citizenship curriculum threads, the school vision, celebration, singing and the school's Tanzania link.  
• A variety of worship enhancements such as visitors from other Christian denominations, charity groups and identified personal development needs of the school etc.  
• Varied class worship - Key Stage, House Groups etc.  
• Worship delivered in the Peace Garden.  
• Varied delivery approaches - child led, drama etc.

**Pupil Leadership**  
Collective times are an opportunity for pupil ownership and to demonstrate the 'living of the vision.' In addition to this, worship contributes to our extensive pupil leadership offer. Ministries are in place, led by our Worship Committee, adding another dimension to pupil leadership. Pupils have wide ranging opportunities to plan, lead and evaluate worship.

**Global Link**  
The school has a strong and established link with Tanzania. First hand experiences from the Headteachers visit have been utilised within school. The partnership is highly valued by all and is now an integral part of worship, affirming the Christian values we hold dear. Pupils are able to articulate their thoughts and relate globally about life, therefore developing an understanding of disadvantage, deprivation and the exploitation of the natural world in its truest forms. The school is 'working with and learning from' their global Tanzanian friends.

**The Anglican Calendar**  
The liturgical calendar indicates the festivals and seasons of the Anglican Church. We follow the calendar which shows the major festivals and saints' days. The liturgical colours for each festival and season are and displayed in school.

**Other World Faiths**  
In addition to the liturgical calendar, other key festivals celebrated by other World religions are incorporated into our provision.





# Tanzania Partnership



## Working With and Learning From...

*The school has strong links with a school in Tanzania. This helps pupils to understand life beyond their own community. Pupils have raised funds to help build a classroom at their partner school.*  
- Ofsted 2020

Strong links have been forged between schools in the Leeds Diocese and Tanzanian schools in the Mara Diocese. Our school is at the forefront of this and an ambassador for the project given Mr. Walkers participation on the most recent visit, his membership of the Tanzania Link Committee, chaired by Bishop Tony Robinson, and taking on the role of Tanzanian Link School's Coordinator, leading within the network of school's and communication with colleagues in Tanzania.

This is a partnership that has gone from strength to strength and is highly valued by the school. The link is part of the fabric of the school and children and staff engage as part of the overall school vision. Using the Tanzania link as a model to inspire change has been proven to impact on children's behaviours as agents of change, the ability to challenge injustice and use their own initiative to fundraise and challenge in other areas.

Over the last few years, strong links have been forged between schools in the Leeds Diocese and Tanzanian schools in the Mara Diocese. Historically this grew from the work being done by the Wakefield Diocese. Over time, schools here have helped raise funds for a huge variety of projects to help communities in Mara. These have included digging wells, building classrooms, providing text books and desks. BUT it is not just about fundraising. Crucially, for the children, it is about learning about other cultures, making friends across the miles and learning key Christian values.

From the visit, many opportunities to learn from the Tanzanian schools have been identified including creativity within the curriculum. Opportunities to enhance the curriculum through this partnership are threaded throughout curriculum plans. Use of Swahili in worship is always enjoyed by the pupils and the offering of prayers, song and music adds to the richness of provision.

More importantly, our work impacts on the lives of communities in extreme poverty and offers hope to many and it is that hope that keeps this network thriving.

This link is closely aligned to our vision, particularly in developing the spirit:



### Mind

- Learners educate, communicate and build enduring relationships with internal and external communities.
- A broad and balanced curriculum is promoted.



### Body

- Learners are encouraged to celebrate the wonderful variety of ways to be human.
- Human identity in all its forms is celebrated ensuring dignity and respect.
- Learners understand that we are all created equally in God's image.



### Spirit

- Learners show courageous advocacy, driving ethical decisions affirming what is right.
- Learners are supported to be the change they want to see in the world.
- Learners offer radical hospitality and are welcoming to all.
- Learners challenge injustice and are committed to justice.
- Learners become agents of change.
- Character development impacts on wider society enabling people to flourish together.

