

Folksworth Church of England (VC) Primary School
and
St Helen's Church, Folksworth

Parish School Covenant Plan



Inspiring a love of learning through
the bonds of family, faith and friendship.

Date: November 2024
Review date: November 2025

Parish - School Covenant



The Church of England
Diocese of Ely



Inspiring a love of learning through
the bonds of family, faith and friendship.

Folksworth C of E
VC School & St.
Helen's Church.



Ambition

Our Christian ethos is our fundamental and guiding principle. The Christian values we promote are community, compassion, friendship, courage, hope and thankfulness. Together we believe that all people are unique and of equal worth. As part of God's family everyone is nurtured, valued and respected. Together we provide a safe community where we give everyone the fullest opportunity to be the very best they can be. Together we endeavour to inspire a life-long love of learning enabling everyone to flourish.

Our Christian ethos ensures relationships within the school are robust and compassionate and we strive for all adults and pupils to feel valued, nurtured and respected.

We value our place in the Church of England, our relationships with St Helen's Church Folksworth and the wider community.

*A cord of three strands is not easily broken.
Ecclesiastes 4: 12*

Commitment

We have agreed on a set of practical commitments to deliver our ambition. These are set out in our PSC Plan (copies available).

Signed

Chair of Governors

Headteacher

Vicar

Parish School Covenant Plan

Love ('Agape' - Self Giving Love) - joint relationships and professional behaviours.

What is Working Well

- + Relationships within the school are robust and compassionate because the Christian vision creates an ethos of respect. Consequently, adults and pupils feel valued and nurtured. (SIAMS 2024)
- + Seeking to meet the needs of their pupils, leaders have created a curriculum which is bespoke to the context of the school. As a result, pupils, including those with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or who are vulnerable, flourish as learners. (SIAMS 2024)
- + Safeguarding is strong with regular training and updates delivered in school and the church ensuring a safe space for all.

Next Steps

- Develop opportunities for courageous advocacy.
 - Look at local and wider issues in collective worship.
 - Look at role models demonstrating examples of courageous advocacy.
 - Use pupil voice to select opportunities for courageous advocacy with a view to the children initiating this more independently.

Community ('Koinonia') - Engagement, Belonging and Servant Heartedness

What is Working Well

- + Partnerships, including with the church, are strong and support the school to live out its vision. As a result, the school holds an important place in the community (SIAMS 2024)
- + Regular services held in church (termly).
- + Work in partnership with local community groups and Parish Council to be part of events within the village.

Next Steps

- Develop links with PCC
 - Improve communication between PCC, School and Governors. School's agenda item in PCC meetings. Governors to continue to provide termly reports for PCC meetings.
 - Incumbent to explore with PCC how they can best support the school.

Christian Distinctiveness - celebrating belonging to the Church of England Family

What is Working Well

- + School vision developed to ensure its distinctly Christian foundation in line with its Trust Deed.
- + The distinctive Christian vision underpins policies and actions. It creates a culture which enables adults and pupils to flourish and 'be the very best they can be.' (SIAMs 2024)
- + Clergy lead collective worship in school weekly.
- + Shared liturgy in collective worship including a greeting, blessing and opportunities for hymns/ song and prayer.
- + School reflection table reflects the changing colours of the liturgical calendar.
- + 3 Foundation Governors appointed by the Incumbent/ PCC on the Governing Body.

- + School has access to the church to support in the delivery of the RE curriculum.
- + Members of the church work with school's 'Worship Leaders' to develop their role within collective worship.

Next Steps

- Exploration of the Eucharist/ Holy Communion in order to help children understand this part of Christian Worship.
 - Talk to children about communion during collective worship ahead of a Church service.
 - Easter Church service to include communion/ blessing.

'Live a life in all its fullness' - Through wisdom, hope, community and respect

What is Working Well

- + Governing Body has an Ethos group to ensure the Christian distinctiveness of the school. They have regular Christian distinctiveness visits as part of their monitoring programme.
- + The school and church work hard to support wellbeing. School prioritises pastoral support for its children and ensures staff have time off for key family events. The incumbent is available to support wellbeing within school at times of difficulty.
- + 'Pupils are happy and feel safe at Folksworth Church of England Primary School. They appreciate the high-quality pastoral support staff give them throughout the school day. Pupils know adults will listen to them and help them if they have any worries' (Ofsted 2022).
- + School and Church collaborate when planning for services in order to share expertise and reduce workload.
- + School and Parish events are supported. For example, the Head Girl and Head Boy represent the school at the annual service of Remembrance.
- + When the school is faced with unexpected and challenging times the school and church community draw on their faith to show love and support for each other.

Next Steps

- Develop a shared language for spirituality.
 - Attend training delivered by Ely Diocese about Spirituality.
 - Develop language within school to be shared with children and key stakeholders.

