



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### **'AN INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVES.'**

In this school Christianity forms the core of what we uphold and teach, and believe it to be evident in the ethos of the school. At the same time, however, we acknowledge and value the multi-faith nature of our community and society. St. Michael at Bowes aims to give its pupils an understanding of the Christian way of life. The school maintains close links with the parish church of St. Michael at Bowes and St Cuthbert's. Our pupils participate in services there for some of the major Christian festivals, or on special occasions throughout the year.

The school's vision is "An inclusive Christian community building on firm foundation for successful lives." Our school values are expressed in a manner easily accessible to our high proportion of pupils who have English as an Additional Language. They are phrased as 'respect', 'caring', 'co-operation', 'honesty', 'fairness' and 'resilience' and are clearly rooted in the Christian values taught by our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount, commonly called 'The Beatitudes'. Our commitment to developing the children's understanding of our obligations to one another, as members of God's family, are further underpinned by our status as a Rights Respecting School and advocate of the United Nations Charter of the Rights of the Child.

Our school values, stemming from the Beatitudes, are reflected through our very clear Christian ethos and commitment to promoting them within the curriculum. The high levels of care, guidance and support ensure that every child is nurtured and supported irrespective of background or circumstance.

We ensure that our provision develops the whole child - academically, socially, morally, and spiritually, so that they are able to thrive in any community. The high levels of care, guidance and support ensure that every child is nurtured and supported.

Our pupils show a strong sense of respect for others' values and faiths as demonstrated in collective worship, lesson observations and work. Indeed, in June 2014 an OFSTED inspector gave the opinion that "the Christian values of the school breathe through the very bricks of the building."

The purpose of Religious Education at St Michael at Bowes Junior School is to nurture the spiritual and moral development in our children through learning about and from religion.