Church School's Distinctiveness Report
Two Rivers CofE Primary School

Introduction
This report aims to illustrate how all that we do at Two Rivers Church of England Primary School is underpinned by the school's Christian character and foundations.

Context
Two Rivers Church of England Primary School opened on 1st September 2020 and moved into its new building in September 2022, on a brand new estate at the edge of Keynsham called Hygge Park. A formal opening ceremony was led by Rt Rev Michael Beasley, Bishop of Bath & Wells. The school is run by Futura Learning Partnership, in partnership with the Diocese of Bath & Wells and operates in close collaboration with St John's Parish Church in Keynsham.



The name was chosen to reflect the history of Keynsham as the town developed around Keynsham Abbey that was founded c. 1170 at the confluence of the rivers Chew and Avon. This link back to early Christian traditions has great significance for the school as a Church of England primary school and water, of course, is very important from both a Christian and an environmental perspective. Linking the brand-new community of Hygge Park back to the origin of Keynsham was also an important consideration in naming the school.

Two Rivers is the first school in the South West to be built to the highest Passivhaus standard and, as such, is a national example of how great architecture and design can provide an educational environment that promotes sustainability. Through working in partnership with Bath & North East Somerset Council, we were also able to ensure that the exterior of the building was of an equally high quality to the interior as the entrance is faced in beautiful blue lias stone.

As a church school, Two Rivers is closely aligned with the Church of England Vision for Education and seeks to ensure this permeates the life of the school and impacts the local community. Educating children to live well and be the next guardians of our planet is of critical importance and the philosophy of Two Rivers, and its innovative building, is leading the way in showing what is possible.

School Vision and Values

At the heart of our vision is Jesus's promise of 'life in all its fullness.' At Two Rivers, our broad and ambitious curriculum is underpinned by this promise and children are encouraged to stand back and admire the work of God in all they do. Children explain the culture of high aspiration as *filling your life with the best things,* showing their understanding of Jesus bringing *life in all its fullness* to what they do and who they are. Our Futura Church schools' song, written by pupils and staff at our school, celebrates this vision and is sung in all the Futura Church schools.

Our school values of *Kindness, Courage and Respect* were worked on and chosen with a Clergy Foundation Governor, staff and pupils in 2021 and the Futura value of *Aspiration* was added in 2023. These values are integral to teaching and learning in the school and are well known and articulated by all members of the school community. Ofsted observed this in action during their inspection in June 2023 as follows:

"Pupils flourish at Two Rivers Church of England Primary School. They describe the school as a welcoming place where everyone is kind and respectful. Staff give pupils the courage and confidence to try new things.
Leaders and staff have the highest ambitions for every pupil. They have created a curriculum that is designed exceptionally well. Starting in the early years, leaders have carefully considered precisely what pupils need to know and when they need to know it. All pupils, including those with special educational needs achieve extremely well."

Culture & Curriculum

All members of the school community actively support and promote the school's vision of 'Life in all its fullness.' John 10:10.

Every classroom has a quiet space for reflection with a Christian-based reflective display. A lunchtime class prayer is part of the children's daily routine. Children are encouraged to demonstrate "*wonderful worship" and "wonderful walking"* around the school. There are visual reminders of the school's Christian values and Jesus' words from John 10:10 both in the entrance foyer and in the Hall. The school plans effectively for play for all year groups, providing opportunities to build strong social communication and collaboration skills, underpinned by the values of *Kindness* and *Respect.*

The school's Positive Behaviour Policy helps to *establish a whole-school approach to maintaining high standards of behaviour that reflect the Christian values of the school*.
All adults model positive behaviour and relationships and the children are supported to develop their understanding of the school's wider culture and the school's values.

The Religions and Worldviews (RW) curriculum is based on *Understanding Christianity* as part of a wider scheme. The RE lead in the school is part of the Futura RW leads network which provides mutual support and expertise. Philosophy for Children (P4C) is established in all year groups which helps children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development within an inclusive school and the wider diverse society.

In alignment with the Trust's climate and nature targets, Two Rivers ensures that care for God's creation is embedded within the school curriculum. This is particularly evident in the teaching of

sustainability, which is thoughtfully mapped throughout all year groups. Pupil Eco leaders support their classmates to work on a specific cause each year which culminates in their taking part in the annual Futura Eco summit. Courageous advocacy is part of the curriculum. Along with sustainability this is embedded in the school culture and can be witnessed for example in persuasive letter writing when the children feel strongly about a cause.

The school's approach to support pupils and families deemed to be vulnerable is primarily through the Pupil Premium strategy. On a more individual level and in keeping with the school's Christian values, provision for pastoral care is offered routinely via our pastoral program, *Thrive* and relationships have been built with families who have found attendance difficult for example; this approach has had a positive impact.

School Worship and Relationship with St John's Parish Church

Pupils at Two Rivers Church of England Primary School participate in a daily act of collective worship as follows:

Monday: Whole school collective worship led by the Headteacher which is values-based and promotes spiritual development by posing questions to be considered and discussed throughout the week such as "What makes a good friend?" or "How can we bring peace to our classroom, our playground or our community?"

Tuesday: Whole school collective worship led by a member of the Clergy team which is Bible-based. This is planned by a Foundation Governor, a member of the Church, in discussion with the school. The Baptist church Minister is part of this team and the Chair of the school LGC is a member of the local Catholic Church.

Wednesday: Whole school collective worship which promotes spirituality through creative expression and singing, led by our Assistant Headteacher

Thursday: Class collective worship with allocated time to follow up a values-based discussion and a class prayer.

Friday: Whole school Celebration praise led by the Headteacher using a Christian-based philosophy of *Windows, Mirrors, Doors* to celebrate the achievements of the week and look out into the world to celebrate and show gratitude.

The Futura Trust Chaplain has supported the school to develop the children as spiritual leaders. Pupils elect house captains to fulfil this role and they take a leading role in collective worship. The school celebrates Church festivals every year. A Harvest Service was held in school and pupils collected food for the Community of the Sisters of the Church in Bristol. They serve 250 to 300 meals per week for the poor and homeless. The school also encourages the children to support charities such as *Hello Yellow* for mental health *Children in Need* and *Comic Relief.* School Christingle and Easter services are held in St John's Church every year. The school visits the Church for services at Christmas, Easter and at the end of the year as well as other ad hoc parish events. School leaders engage with the diocese for training and conference events at Flourish House and Two Rivers and our Parish maintain a partnership with a link school in Chipata South, Zambia. Special events and collective worship services are held throughout the year e.g. a celebration of the 60th anniversary of Zambia's independence was led by some of the clergy team, in full Zambian dress!