

The School's Christian Distinctiveness
Parental Questionnaire- September 2019

Please give an example of how the school's values impact on your child (44 responses)

"The interaction between year groups and giving the children responsibilities ie play leaders or worship leaders is a great experience for them."

"my child is happy to go to church and feels he fits in with his friends as most of his friends do so too - so he does not stand out as different because he goes to church"

"My daughter is a more well-rounded individual thanks to the schools values. It's good that school is not solely focused on academia."

"They sometimes discuss how they have used values during their school day, when they are home."

"Because they align to our church (New Horizons Church) vision - which was fully support"

N/A

"The school's values are an essential crucible for an all round development"

"Confident in herself and she agrees with the values as being the right thing. They makes sense to her, instinctively and spiritually."

"Identity is a key part of what we communicate at home, that they are important just for being who they are not what they do."

"They are more aware of actions and behaviour and how it affects others is one example."

"Very strong belief in god and the Christian faith"

"Encourages and helps her to be more Christ-like"

"Homework and her willingness to learn"

"They continue to bring out the best in our children, supporting the values and teachings they receive both at home and in church."

"My son talks regularly about the different values and how he sees those being worked out in his life. It helps him be proactive in developing those qualities in himself."

"Inspire them to be willing to do good and to be kind to others but does not make them grow in believing in God."

"My child talks about the values at home and tells me when she is using them. They are important to her."

"It's been helpful with the learning log tasks to discuss the values in greater detail at home and how they apply to us. The boys have then noticed other occasions they are demonstrating 'teamwork, excellence etc' as an attribute to be striving for."

"They discuss them at home and will tell each other when they've demonstrated the value of that term."

"Being aware of these as a starter, having a discourse around them & learning what they mean & therefore having a basic understanding, of which I don't think would happen in any school."

"Understanding teamwork has been helpful as Toby naturally struggles in team settings being quite shy, so this has given us a platform to talk about the importance of teamwork & how he can participate."

"Our child is very aware of her identity and how that impacts the world around her. She's become more aware of people she's in class with by learning how to work in teams. Also she strives to show good and godly character at home with her sibling, at school and church with her friends"

"Allowing them to shine"

"He takes them onboard"

"I have noticed that Isaac is being more considerate & kind towards other classmates as well as children outside of school eg at his swimming lessons."

"In Stewardship, for example, our children can see how we should think of others, look out for those less well off than ourselves and do acts of kindness for others - just as Jesus did in his daily walks of life."

"She is learning the same values she learns at home and in church - therefore school reinforces these values and allows her to grow in confidence of the truth of God's principles and ways. This means she is developing in becoming more Christlike - and for this to be normal in her school environment is very encouraging for her, and gives her the space to truly embrace Gods values and ways - as she can see everyone being taught to apply them and it helps her use them in challenges with friends and any day to day life situations."

"The values help my children to be kinder to those around them."

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"I find that the school is very caring towards my child. His value as an individual is highly respected. He also enjoys working with other children and this enables him to enjoy his place within teamwork. He feels part of the school community and this adds to his sense of self-esteem."

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"Deepened understanding of the each of the values, the word, in terms of being a Christian and how that develops a sense of right and wrong, positive behaviours and thinking beyond yourself"

"My daughter is in year 1 and whenever she faces a challenge she reminds herself of one of the values to help encourage her to keep on going. I absolutely love the fact that she confidently uses these words."

"Raises awareness (at an age appropriate level) of their uniqueness, responsibility, independence yet need to obtain and rely on and support others - all of which are the tenets of civilised society and core to many faiths including Christianity."

"The strive to always do your best and don't be afraid to try even if you might fail."

"They are more reflective of who they are and how to be better"

"Due values my kids are more confident"

"My older child often refers to the school values and encourages the rest of the family to demonstrate them too."

"They will often refer to the values outside of school when they are working hard on something, needing to persevere, keeping going to the completion of something."

"He is able to pinpoint how the things he does relate to the school values."

"Holistic development. Foundation for growth mindset. Attitude to life! The Ethos that is bought into by all staff creates a coherent learning environment Embodied by Senior Leadership - role models"

"They have spoken more of the effort given in class than just outcomes. We've used the word 'character' in discussions with them in a really helpful way as they have a clear understanding of its meaning."

"My child uses these values in life outside of school and will often say I've just shown *insert value* just like we are doing at school."

"My children come home talking about the values and sometimes use the terms when describing things."

"I think it motivates children to be the best version of themselves. It also helps them to think of their actions in terms of the greater good. I think it raises kind, self motivated children"

Please explain what you like about the school as a church school (44 responses)

"Trust and support between the parents is considerably higher than other schools."

"the links to the local church provides a sense of community"

"I like that my daughter studies and celebrates christianity, and that it is still an integral part of school life. So many other schools no longer celebrate Christmas and Easter, and it is important to me that my daughter does."

"Encourages good morals for life"

"The ethos, the displays by Brit Scott - not hiding our distinctiveness"

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"Celebration of events"

"Gives children the right groundings as to what is right and what is wrong from a Biblical perspective, and from this platform, how to influence others through Godly love and wisdom."

"That the worship to Jesus is a key part of school life"

"It has such a community feel. It's not just a school for the children but the whole family."

"Gives a strong moral compass and it's better than believing in nothing"

"I like that they are taught about god and Christian values, sing a worship songs and have opportunities to pray together"

"We as a family do not identify with religious beliefs but it is nice that children learn about it"

"We specifically looked for a school that had the same values and ethos as the upbringing they receive outside of a school. We want a school that builds upon the values of christian teachings and encourages children to participate in these values daily."

"As a Christian, it is very important to me that my child's school encourages that side of his life and invests into his moral and spiritual development. My experience of that at St John's has been extremely positive."

"Worship assemblies, Friday and Wednesday. People coming to share important topics with children. Like Terry Osborne, Darren, Andy March etc. Not celebrating Halloween, showing it's not a Christian Holiday."

"They pray together and learn bible stories."

"We like the values as primary to what is being built into the children and the message that communicates that that is more important than achievement. I like that they are growing up in an environment where it is normal to know God and have a faith alongside their peers that they can encourage each other in."

"I am glad that the children have a good Christian foundation in their day to day school lives."

"The community & the ability to integrate a way of life in & out of school due to commonality. There's a consistency between home & school."

"I like how the school values are linked with biblical principles and the impact its making in our children's lives within school and beyond"

"It feels like a family"

"The core values"

"I like the focus on the christian faith, this is evident in the assemblies and also that school has a prayer area. I like that the children are taught about the life of Jesus and the miracles he did, as this reinforces what he learns at home. I also like the emphasis on teaching the children christian values.

That it is God-centred in lessons, assemblies and displays around the school. It supports Biblical Scripture, allows our children to be free to praise and worship God - and on a daily basis. It continues to uphold, as far as I'm aware, Biblical Scripture with regards to sex education and other popular social matters. All whilst also allowing children to have an understanding of other religions and beliefs.

Worship times, building awareness of power of Gods ways (school values) having a safe place where Christianity is not attacked and is not another battle to face (there are already plenty of battles each child has to face against these values in all the things the world presents)."

"Faith being part of their every day lives"

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"I really like that Christian values are maintained and that my son can feel that he is part of something bigger than himself. There is a real sense of justice in the school and of the children being listened to."

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I" would like to see growth across our community and the different churches, our church do a lot to reach out and do Open The Book stories which are a fantastic resource for schools to share bible stories through short plays in assemblies. Contact Miles and Lesley at All Saints"

"I feel that the students are encouraged to learn positive values and morals which will help them to respect others and treat others with love and care."

Not sure the extent to which the school is linked to churches other than St Christopher.

"The community and family feeling"

"The songs the kids come home singing and the prayer garden."

"For me is very important my kids have contact with the Bible learn about God because it help to be a better person if the future."

"The teaching of Christian faith and the strong community, supportive, family feel."

"Whether or not you believe in the spiritual aspects of the school's ethos, the values that it is run are undeniably positive - helping children's holistic development not just in areas of traditional learning. School operates in line with the teachings of the Church of England."

"I value my children being able to easily have the chance to acknowledge their faith in school alongside many others and for some level of Christian direction in the governance of the school. I think the school's nurturing environment is so strong because of the Christian foundations and the families it attracts."

"It is grounded in more than just SATs. It forces the school to look beyond its own boundaries and out into both the community and the spiritual world."

“The Christian ethos of the school is very important to me, my child prays during the day in school and I really enjoy that parents can attend a worship assembly every week... something other local schools don't have.”

“Prayers, worship, Christian festivals celebrated, Christian nativities, bible readings. It gives an integral approach to our faith, being a Christian is just normal life.. school, work, church, we take Jesus everywhere we go.. It is the most valuable part of our existence so having it in our school life for our children is so important but also just should be a normal overflow of life..”

“It instils good values into children. The bible verses on the walls will build children up and thr songs that are sung in worship are helping to create hearts of worship”