



*"Together, with God's help, we learn for life, achieve our best and grow in faith"*

**ABBOTS RIPTON C OF E SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY**

**Terms of Reference – Faith Matters committee**

**2025/6**

**PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose of our Faith Matters Committee is to ensure that the roots of our school are grounded in the Christian vision that mark us out as distinctive, and to ensure that the Christian character of the school is secured, preserved and developed and that the school is run in accordance with its Trust Deed.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership will consist of the Headteacher or deputy, ex-officio incumbent (where possible) , all Foundation Governors and the RE subject leader. In the absence of an incumbent, the Vice Chair will lead. The group may on occasions co-opt other members of the school community such as pupils, local church members, or other members of staff.

**MEETINGS**

The Committee shall meet termly or more frequently if necessary and invite other people to attend in order to advise or comment. Other members of the Governing Body may attend meetings of the Committee as non-voting members.

The clerk to the committee shall be responsible for convening meetings of the committee by giving written notice and issuing an agenda seven days in advance. Procedures of any meetings must be minuted and a report given to the next meeting of the Full Governing Body.

**QUORUM**

The quorum shall be not less than three members, including the Headteacher or a deputy (but excluding non-voting participants).

**CHAIRMANSHIP** The incumbent will act as Chair, with a Foundation Governor appointed as Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed by the Full Governing Body at its last meeting of the year.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Committee will:

- Support, advise and challenge the headteacher and governing body on matters relating to the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a Church of England school and the impact which this has on pupils and the whole school community.
- Ensure that the school embraces the Church of England's Vision for Education through its school vision and in school life and monitors its effectiveness in doing this.

- Ensure that strands of the SIAMS framework - wisdom, hope, community and dignity - are effectively embedded in the school.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of Collective Worship.
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in religious education.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school.
- Develop and keep under review the Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS) self-evaluation form.
- Support in addressing any developmental issues from the previous SIAMS Inspection.
- Monitor the effectiveness of partnerships which have been developed between the school and other communities, including parents, the parish church and the Diocese. • Keep under review policies for Religious Education and Collective Worship and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.
- Ensure that the Christian distinctiveness of the school is included in the recruitment and induction for all new staff, including the Headteacher.
- Formulate and annually review the schools Admissions Policy, including any faith-based over-subscription criteria to enable the Full Governing Body to fulfil its responsibility as the school's Admissions Authority.

### **GOVERNOR VISITS**

Governor visits will be undertaken and their focus to be agreed by the Head Teacher in line with the school development priorities and/or the roles and responsibilities of this committee.

The number of Visits will be determined according to the Governor Visits Policy and agreed by the Faith Matters Committee.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Before discussing or voting on a subject, a member of the Committee must declare any personal or pecuniary interest and if applicable withdraw. Members of the Committee who also teach at the school need not withdraw from meetings when their interest in the matter being discussed is no greater than the interest of the generality of the teachers in the school.