

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHURCH SCHOOL

(Kenn C of E Primary School is VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED)

(as opposed to VA – Voluntary Aided)

CONSTITUTION: We have been founded by a 1969 Trust Deed as a VC Church School. Therefore, the following is largely non-negotiable, except in the event the Governing Body decided to approach the Diocese/LA to seek to alter the very Instrument of Government and status of our School (almost unheard-of)!

ETHOS STATEMENT: From the School's Instrument of Government sealed by DCC on 1st June 2005 –

'This is a Church of England school in the Diocese of Exeter.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles and practice of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church in the parish and the diocese.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.'

THE GOVERNING BODY: Foundation Governors are in a minority. They are nominated by the Parochial Church Council and appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education (one to be the principal officiating minister *ex officio*). A Governor, preferably a Foundation Governor, should be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of RE.

FUNDING: Still the Local Authority ('LA') LMS Formula.

ADMISSIONS: The LA determines the Admissions Policy, but must consult with the Governing Body each year.

THE SCHOOL PREMISES: are owned by the Trustees (Exeter Diocesan Board of Finance) under the initial Trust Deed. The LA is responsible for the state of the fabric of the School and its fixtures and fittings, and insurance must be arranged to its satisfaction.

ADVICE: The LA Chief Education Officer has certain rights to attend Governors' Meetings to give advice. The Diocesan Director of Education may be given similar rights by the Governors.

INSPECTION: OFSTED inspect under s48 and s5 of the Inspection Act (including inspection of RE), as part of the School's provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. A separate (denominational) inspection is required – the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools (SIAS). Assessment focuses on the promotion of the Christian ethos and spiritual development of children in an uplifting way.

STAFF – TEACHING: are employed and paid for by the LA (although appointed through the Governors, usually). Governors have the right to satisfy themselves that the Headteacher is willing and able to uphold the Christian ethos of the School. Staff may exercise their right to withdraw from teaching RE.

STAFF – SUPPORT: are employed and paid for by the LA or independent contractors (again normally appointed/authorised through the Governors).

WORSHIP: There is a mandatory requirement for a daily act of Collective Christian Worship which reflects the Anglican tradition, ie specifically Christian and in line with the School's designated Christian character. This can include worship in Church, and also may take different forms, eg whole School, in Key Stages or in individual classes. Governors are responsible for Collective Worship, in consultation with the Headteacher. Collective Worship should make a major contribution to the spiritual development of children. The parental right to withdraw children from Collective Worship must be stated in the School's Collective Worship Policy and in the School Prospectus.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: is a key subject within the basic Curriculum, to be taught for 5% of Curriculum time (this importance should be reflected in staffing, timetabling, resources and training). The School must follow the LA's Agreed Syllabus. The Governing Body shares responsibility for RE with the Headteacher and the LA. Parents have the right to request denominational education which will be provided by a 'Reserved Teacher' (very difficult for a Primary School to provide this, in practice). Parents may request that their children receive RE in accordance with the School's Trust Deed, ie to reflect the faith and practice of the Church of England.

**Prepared by Ali Langmead, Foundation Governor, for Full Governors' Meeting
05.04.11**