

## Christian Ethos Policy

We exist to serve the community by providing a safe environment, where each child is loved and accepted within a Christian ethos. Every child, irrespective of background, will be nurtured emotionally, intellectually, physically and spiritually so that they may achieve their full potential. To honour God, we will strive to be the best that we can be.



We recognise that the children and their families come from diverse social, economic, ethnic and religious backgrounds, and we respect their beliefs and cultural diversities. We are committed to providing a setting where each child is valued as a unique person made in the image of God.

We believe that the Christian faith provides a foundation for all that we do, contributing to the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of each child. We believe that as children are developing an awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences (how, why, where, what?), Christian teaching plays an important part. As the teachings of the Bible are explored through stories, they provide opportunities for children to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences. The children learn 'about' the stories and learn 'from' the stories.

### *Practices*

A Christian Ethos is embedded in the setting through a range of daily, weekly, occasional, seasonal and annual practices which are intended to support children's spiritual development in an inclusive manner.

### *Moral and Social issues*

Christian values underpin every aspect of Steps. Children are shown by teaching and example the importance of these values and are shown that these are the values that Jesus taught and lived out in practice. The Christian values are woven into the fabric of the setting explicitly and implicitly:

- Sharing toys and equipment
- Showing kindness
- Honesty when dealing with other children or adults
- Caring for their own needs and the needs of others
- Love of self and others
- Respect of other children, adults, flora, fauna and equipment.

This list is not exhaustive but are the ones most often used as they can be adapted to suit the development stages of the children. The children are encouraged in all situations to make good choices and to reflect on their own behaviour and attitudes.

### *Use of the Outside Area*

This area is an important part of children's development on many levels. It is a place of play and fun and also provides a space for reflection and for social, physical, intellectual, spiritual and moral development. The children are encouraged to use their senses to explore the world which God has created. They are encouraged to see themselves as 'stewards' of God's creation, taking care not to damage flora or fauna. A 'senses garden' provides opportunities for them to use their senses and to use their own thoughts, actions and words to thank God for what they see, hear, touch, and smell.

### *Withdrawal*

Parents are always made aware that our setting has a Christian foundation and follows certain practices linked with our faith. They are offered the choice of withdrawing their child from a particular activity or celebration with the assurance that their wishes will be respected and actioned sensitively.

### *The Appointment of New Members of Staff*

Applicants are made aware of the Christian ethos of Steps and the established links with St Stephen's Church. Successful applicants should be sympathetic to the Christian values and practices.

Approved on behalf of the PCC, at the SRG meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2020		(date)
Signed on behalf of the PCC Support Group		
Name of Signatory	Rev Mark Barker	
Role of Signatory	Chair	
Date to be reviewed:	February 2023	