

The Work of the Ethos Committee at Old Sodbury CE Primary School 2025-2026
Report prepared for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 28th April 2026

Old Sodbury School Development Plan Long term Strategic Goals 2024 – 2027 Priority 5 state:
“Children develop a sense of belonging to a Christian family and demonstrate their understanding of Christian values through their actions.”

Success Criteria specify that:

“Children know about God’s love for them.

Children demonstrate the school’s values and have become courageous advocates.

Children understand how special and unique they are.

Children are able to articulate spirituality and the impact it has upon their lives.”

What is a Christian Ethos? (notes taken from a Diocesan training course on 23.10.2025)

A Christian Ethos is a set of values based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, emphasising love, compassion, forgiveness and grace.

It provides the moral and ethical framework for both personal conduct and community life, which includes treating others with respect, integrity and humility and fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

In practice, this ensures that:

- RE is meaningful and encourages a respectful understanding of other faiths.
- There is evidence of Christian values, such as respect, forgiveness, and caring for others in the behaviour and relationships within our school.

The Key Functions of the Ethos Committee

- Help to define and promote the Christian Vision and Values of the school and monitor their impact on the lives of pupils, staff and the wider community.
- Monitor Collective Worship to ensure it is inclusive, inspirational, invitational and has distinctly Christian elements.
- Support and promote strong, reciprocal relationships between the school, the local church and the wider community.
- Support and challenge the headteacher and governors on matters of Christian distinctiveness.
- Encourage Christian leadership among all teachers to support the future leadership of church schools.
- Ensure that the school’s Christian character is explicitly and implicitly present through all aspects of school life.
- Verify that the school meets the statutory requirements and best practice for RE and CW.

The Work of the Ethos Committee

In practice, the Ethos Committee is responsible for:

- Promoting a Christian Ethos in the school
- Monitoring the content and impact of Collective Worship
- Monitoring the content and Impact of RE

The Committee normally meets three times throughout the academic year with the purpose of monitoring the impact of the school's stated values and vision as "lived out" in the daily practices and behaviour of both staff and pupils.

On January 12th 2026 we:

- Monitored Collective Worship for a report to the Full Governing Body.
- Found out what some of the children thought through Pupil Voice.
- Visited Chestnut Class to hear from the children about their Uganda Project.

On March 30th 2026 we:

- Monitored Collective Worship for a report to the Full Governing Body.
- Reviewed curriculum maps and plans to ensure that spirituality is woven into the wider curriculum.
- Found out what pupils understood by 'spirituality' through Pupil Voice.
- Reviewed a selection of pupils' RE exercise books and also the Class Floor books.

On May 18th 2026 we will:

- Observe pupils leading Collective Worship and prepare a monitoring report for the FGB.
- Have a Pupil Conference with the Collective Worship Team and monitor their evaluation record.
- Look at the new RE curriculum plans based on the Diocese of Gloucester new RE scheme.

Membership of the Ethos Committee

To date the Committee has 4 members:

- The Rector:- Revd. Chris Butler
- The Headteacher:- Bernie Webber-Brown
- The Foundation Governor:- Sheila Purdom
- A Church member:-Edna Cooper

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Edna for her long and faithful service to the school in this capacity. She has made the decision to step back from this role but will continue to be a much valued member of our Bible Storytelling team which takes Collective Worship approximately 6 times each term.

There is a vacancy for a parent member but, currently, no parent has been able to find the time as most have fulltime work and family commitments.

I have found membership of the Ethos Committee to be most rewarding and wish to thank the PCC for recommending my reappointment to serve the school as Foundation Governor for a further 4 years.

Sheila Purdom