St. Paul's National School

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Ethos Statement

1. St. Paul's National School is a Church of Ireland primary school, under the Patronage of the Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh. This is reflected in the characteristic spirit of the school, which permeates all aspects of its life and work.

2. The school shares in the ethos and tradition of the local sponsoring church community, and has tangible links with the Church of Ireland parish, exemplified in regular visits from the clergy. In all aspects of its life and work, the school seeks to nurture moral values based on Christian principles, particularly as reflected in the Biblical foundation as interpreted with Anglican tradition. **All pupils are encouraged to join in common worship activities, including special occasions involving visits to the parish church.**

3. The school is a community where all pupils are valued and respected, irrespective of gender, social background, family circumstances, educational achievement, physical characteristics or intellectual functioning. Pupils are encouraged to develop spiritual, moral and religious values and personal social skills, alongside their intellectual and academic development. The complementary roles of parents and teachers are recognised and valued.

4. Religious Education occupies a central position in the school curriculum and is regarded as a core subject. All pupils attend Religious Education classes, unless parents wish to exercise their right to exempt their child who is not of the Church of Ireland tradition. Parents are advised that exemption gives rise to challenges of accommodation and supervision. The teaching of Religious Education is restricted to a specified period in the time-table.

5. The school seeks to nurture tolerance and respect for ethnic, religious and social differences, and to encourage justice, fairness, sensitivity to others and civic responsibility. Integral to this is the development of a school community characterised by equitable treatment, a sense of caring, belonging and the enhancement of the self-esteem of everyone involved.