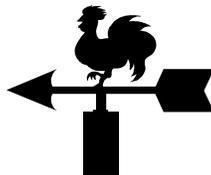


Calow Church of England (V.C.) Primary School

People have sometimes asked what Church of England (V.C.) means in the School's name. The abbreviation denotes that we are a voluntary controlled Church of England school which has an association with its local church. Our School is linked with Calow Parish Church and that link is shown by the School's logo which features crossed keys and an upside down cross.

An explanation for the symbols linked to Saint Peter is given below:

*Calow Parish Church is dedicated to St Peter, a Galileean fisherman to whom Jesus said, when he appointed him leader of the twelve apostles: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16.18 – 19). That is why the **crossed keys** are his usual symbol in Christian art.*



*The golden weathercock on the top of the church spire reminds us that despite Peter's promise to Jesus after the Last Supper that he would never desert him, the reply he received, "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times," foretold what actually happened. When the cock crowed Peter remembered what Jesus had said "and he went out and wept bitterly." (Matthew 26.33 – 75) And so tradition has it that when he was sentenced to death at Rome during Nero's persecution Peter declared himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus and insisted on being crucified upside down. That is why an **upside down cross** is also used to symbolise Peter.*

*Both the **crossed keys** and the **upside down cross** feature prominently on notices in and around Calow Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School. They underline the link between the school and the parish's patron saint.*

Reverend Kevin Ball is a frequent visitor to School and leads Collective Worship on a weekly basis. He is also a member of the School's Governing Body. The other Foundation Governor at Calow Primary, appointed by Derby Diocese is Mrs. Andrea Goodwin.

The School supports the annual charity appeal by the Bishop of Derby, which this year is for underprivileged people in India. Funds are generated by the School community donating Harvest produce which is then sold in aid of the charity. In addition to the Harvest Festival that the School stages at St. Peter's Church, we also celebrate Christmas and Easter there too.