

## Spirituality Policy

---

***At St. Andrew's C.E. Primary School we describe spirituality as building life and community together on the values of Jesus.***

### **Aims**

In order to foster spiritual development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child growing into the image of God
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them
- Experience feelings of awe and wonder
- Develop an awareness of and respect for other people's beliefs and faiths and the ability to articulate their own
- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others)
- Develop strategies to build good mental health (see PSHE policy)
- Foster self-awareness and encourage pupils to make informed decisions
- Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life
- Begin to understand and make sense of their own feelings and emotions around certain encounters and events that occur in their life
- Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth
- Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others
- Encourage curiosity, creativity and imagination
- Develop the ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion and beauty
- Develop a capacity to value the natural world, a sense of awe and wonder and a commitment to care for creation

These objectives will enable the pupils to have a quality of life that encompasses respect, awareness, compassion, curiosity, understanding and relationships that reflect order, reason, balance and integrity.

## Spirituality Policy

---

### Teaching and Learning

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be underpinned by the school's Christian vision statement and associated values
- Opportunities for spiritual development are actively planned into the curriculum and encouraged in all areas of school life
- Unplanned and spontaneous spiritual experiences are recognised, acknowledged and/or celebrated by staff and children
- Collective worship celebrates the love of God for every individual and the community and provides opportunities for children to respond and reflect on this
- A solid understanding of the Christian concept of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; of prayer and of the Bible is nurtured and developed
- The school, church and other sacred places are used across the curriculum, giving children the opportunity to explore their own spirituality
- That children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight are fostered through the creative arts and interactive multi-sensory teaching strategies making use of the outdoor environment and relevant educational visits
- The provision of opportunities to listen attentively and observe carefully, listening with discernment, valuing what is good and worthwhile and making judgements through discussion and exchange of views and ideas
- Support for learning to live with success and failure for themselves and with others
- That moral development is linked to spiritual development through strategies such as 'windows, mirrors and doors' (see Appendix 2)
- That the outstanding RE curriculum delivers knowledge and understanding of spirituality from a number of world faith and world view perspectives
- That children are given as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed, cherished and protected
- Promotion of strategies for positive mental health (see Appendix 3)

## Spirituality Policy

---

### Approaches

In our school we seek to find ways in which all areas of the curriculum can contribute to children's spiritual development and to highlight opportunities for these in our planning by:

- Seeking to foster spiritual capacities, e.g. imagination, insight, compassion, kindness and empathy
- Allowing children the security and opportunity to explore and express feelings and emotions and to celebrate diversity
- Providing opportunities for prayer and contemplation including silence and stillness
- Sharing feelings and experiences that foster hope, joy, reassurance and encouragement
- Encouraging children to develop relationships based on the school's Christian vision and associated values
- Enabling children to make the links between the Church and Biblical teachings, the life of the school and the wider community and how these impact on their own understanding of themselves and their place within the world today;
- Providing an environment that promotes space to reflect, think and wonder.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

Spiritual development continues throughout our lives. Opportunities offered to children for spiritual development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways;

- Observing and listening to children
- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings alongside the school's Christian vision and values
- Sharing of classroom work and practice;
- Ensuring that staff have a clear understanding of what spirituality means in this school by providing them with induction and development training
- Evidence from pupils' work, e.g. reflective diary, RE books, SMSC work, creative writing, art
- Regular inclusion in the SEF
- CPD opportunities and sharing examples of good practice with other schools.

**Reviewed: Autumn 2022**

**Approved by: Curriculum Committee**

**Next Review Due: Autumn 2023**

**Monitored by: Executive Headteacher**