



Tibberton CE First School and Hindlip CE First School



Spirituality Policy

Policy agreed: Spring 22

Review Date: Spring 24

Chair of Governors: Mr A. Clarke.

Executive Head Teacher: Mr A. Gromski

Governor with responsibility for spirituality: Revd N Byard

Co-ordinator: Mr. A Gromski

Vision, Aims and Values of our Schools

'Grace is a gift from God.' (Ephesians 2:8)

Our school federations distinct Christian Vision permeates all aspects of school life, including religious education. The heart of this vision is our commitment to serve with *Grace*, giving our very best in all we do, providing a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum which allows our pupils to flourish. This vision is supported by the values we teach, the Christian Values chosen by children, parents, staff, governors and our local community. Values of:

Respect Love Friendship Truthfulness Courage Perseverance

Our school federation aims to provide the best quality education possible in a stimulating environment where children feel happy and safe. With our Christian Vision and values forming the foundation of our ethos, we offer a caring and tolerant atmosphere for learning where cultural diversity is valued.

Our Curriculum Aims: To help each individual flourish...

- To be happy, caring and welcoming schools rooted firmly in Christian values and in principles that safeguard and promote the welfare of all within the school communities.
- To provide a high quality education and ensure high standards of achievement for every child; academically, spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially and morally.
- To ensure everyone should attain their personal best.
- To provide opportunities for our children to develop their spiritual selves, their respect and understanding of their own faith, beliefs and culture and that of others.
- To provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their relationship with God, should they choose to do so.
- To be family orientated schools that at the heart of our communities, where all are respected and valued.
- To foster successful partnerships with parents, carers, the church and local communities.
- To develop our children's spirituality through encouraging curiosity, fostering a love of life and nurturing a sense of awe and wonder in the world around us.
- To develop and celebrate our British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, respect for and acceptance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.
- To create successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens who are aspirational.
- To encourage children to be resilient and resourceful so that they are able to adapt and grow in an ever-changing world.
- To develop enthusiastic, positive and independent children who are equipped with life skills and who are prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.
- To open our children's minds to a world of possibilities by promoting risk-taking (in a safe environment) and creativity.
- To help our children to achieve economic well-being by developing effective team work, communication, problem-solving and leadership skills.
- To promote a life-long love of learning by providing a stimulating, rich, exciting and engaging curriculum tailored to meet individual needs.
- To ensure that the unique contextual needs of our pupils are met through our curriculum offer.

Spirituality

**In the Bible, Jesus asks his followers to be "a light to the world."
Let us bring light to the lives of people we meet.**

These spiritual capacities are both worthy and capable of development in schools:

- self-awareness and self-knowledge
- sensitivity and responsiveness
- inner strength and resilience
- ideals and aspirations
- love and relationships
- striving and seeking
- reflection on experience

Promoting spiritual development involves developing our capacity to be responsible in different contexts.

Remember "**Love and respect ourselves, others and God's world**" and "**Achieve, Believe, Care**" (our school vision statements) relates to us all and not just the children.

Spiritual Development:

Although development is not measurable we need to provide opportunities where growth can happen that can be evaluated and monitored. This evaluation can involve discussions with staff, sharing of classroom practice, evidence from pupils work (e.g. a reflective diary) inclusion in staff development, monitoring of lessons.

'Schools should be places where pupils are given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of such experiences; prayer and worship, awe and wonder, connection and belonging.' (Making Sense of Spiritual Development)

As a church school we seek to develop the following in pupils:

- A sense of self-worth reflecting the Christian belief that all are created in the image of God.
- A sense of being in relationship with others and a sense of community.
- Involvement with others in the wider world and an appreciation of diversity and difference.
- A response to a distinctive church school ethos and knowledge of the Christian faith as a way of understanding meaning and purpose in life.
- An ability to reflect on experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc.
- An ability to realise that difficult experiences can be times of growth (e.g. death of a pupil or member of staff)
- A willingness to explore Christian beliefs and values as way of countering the negative forces in human experience.
- An ability to explore ultimate questions and mysteries in life

Ways we develop spirituality:

- Making school an emotionally safe place where pupils can ask questions and voice their opinions, express feelings and emotions
- Creating time to learn about, discuss and reflect on key questions of meaning and truth such as the origins of the universe, life after death, good and evil, beliefs about God and values such as justice, honesty and truth. This can happen in any part of the curriculum: Science, English, ICT.

- Designing activities which foster spiritual capacities such as imagination, self-awareness, empathy, reflection and creativity
- Encouraging pupils to respond to spiritual issues through dance, art, drama, poetry, design. Many of the beliefs and concepts of the Christian faith and other traditions are expressed through the creative arts and can be explored across the curriculum and in worship.
- Providing opportunities to explore making free and responsible choices being aware of consequences and implications. (PSHCE, circle time).
- Encouraging pupils to develop relationships based on the Christian values of love, forgiveness and service to others.
- Providing opportunities for silence, stillness and prayer, for example, by using reflective displays in classes and outside.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect on the significance of what they have learned, ensuring that all pupils have full access to spiritual development whatever their ability.
- Developing links with local churches and their teams to provide opportunities for experiencing sacred space, exploring the Christian faith and experiencing Christian spirituality. e.g. 'Experience Easter'; 'Open the book', Pilgrim's Quest, iSingPop.
- Recognition of spirituality across all faiths and for those without a recognised faith. We recognise that you can be spiritual without being overtly religious.