

# St John's CE VC Primary School

## Spirituality Policy

### Introduction

At this church school, all aspects of school life reflect a Christian ethos and this policy is based on Christian principles. We aim for all children to work together to fly high like an eagle, this includes their spiritual development.

### What is it?

At St. John's Primary School we believe that it is very important to provide all children with a range of opportunities to help them develop spiritually. We believe that spiritual development may not be synonymous with Religious Education and Collective Worship and can be explored through many different curriculum areas.

As a school we focus on the idea of 4 concepts of spirituality: self, others, world and beauty and beyond. Our starting point is our pupils' own 'Big' questions about life and from this we plan a series of encounters (Windows) that open up the possibility of reflection (Mirrors). Finally, the children are given an opportunity to put into action what they believe and value. (Doors)

### Why is it important?

Christians believe that God became human and therefore always strive to be the best human they can possibly be. As educators and in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010, we want to help every child to be the best that they can be and have a duty to support the children to achieve this; part of this responsibility is to help children develop spiritually. At St. John's all aspects of school life reflect a Christian ethos and all policies are based on Christian principles.

### What do we aim to achieve for the children?

- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of **self**- the inner person and the way that this shapes an individual's perception of themselves as a unique human being. The children reflect on the relationship they have with their sense of being a unique person.
- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of **others** – a growing empathy, concern & compassion of how to treat others. The children reflect on how their values & principles affect their relationships with others.
- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of a physical and creative **world** – a growing relationship with beauty through the ability to respond emotionally to experiences of the wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity. The children explore their understanding beauty and the affect this has on their perception of and relationship with the world.
- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of the **beyond** – a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experiences beyond the everyday. The children search for meaning in their very existence and their place in the greater scheme of things.
- The children develop an understanding of the beliefs and values of Christianity and other world religions. The children are respectful of the beliefs and values of others.
- The children develop an understanding of the ethos of a Church school and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith as a way of understanding our meaning and purpose in life.
- The children develop the ability to question.
- The children develop their ability to express their thoughts, ideas, feelings and their beliefs.

## How do we do it?

- We provide and plan for a wide range of opportunities for children to develop spiritually in all areas of the curriculum. In particular through Religious Education, English, Maths, P.S.H.E., Science, Humanities, Art and Music.
- We provide and plan for a wide range of opportunities for children to develop spiritually through Worship including: whole school, whole site and class services.
- We also promote spiritual development opportunities through our wider curriculum, for example: during our themed weeks such as 'Green Week'; 'Say no to Bullying Week'; 'Cultural Week', 'Sports Week' and through other extra-curricular activities such as the school drama productions.
- We provide areas for quiet reflection in school and in the outdoor environment.
- We provide opportunities for prayer, including silence and stillness.
- When planning for spiritual development we focus on 3 areas: Windows, Mirrors and Doors.

### A) WINDOWS: Encounter - The Learning about life.

We give children to opportunities to become aware of the world in new ways, to **wonder** about life's 'Wows' (things that are amazing) and 'Ows' (things that bring us up short).

### B) MIRRORS: Reflection - The learning from life.

We provide children with time for **REFLECTION**. We give children opportunities to reflect on their experiences, to look inward & consider the big questions of life. In this they are learning *from* life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others. Give emotional, physical and auditory space.

### C) DOORS: Transformation - The learning to live by putting into action what they believe.

We give children opportunities to *respond to all of this*; to **do** something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to *live* by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Collective Worship Policy

RE Policy

Equalities Policy