



St. Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

Spirituality Policy

2020-2021

Our Church school reflects the nature of the Trinity, a life shared and defined by reference to others. Here we can discover who we are, why we are and what we might be.

Summarised from The Way Ahead Chapter 3 para 3.26

“For a human being, especially a child or young person, to have a full quality of life, spirituality in all its aspects must be nurtured and affirmed.”

The Spiritual Policy at St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School is distinctly Christian; that each of us is created in God's image. In our policies and the ethos of our school we endeavour to reflect the love of God in all aspects of our lives.

Spiritual development enables all pupils and adults in our school to look within themselves, at their relationships and at the wider world with characteristics such as honesty, perseverance, kindness and respect so that they can better face the challenges and opportunities of life.

Aims:

As a school rooted in the teaching and values of the Church of England, we aim to highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension of life by:

- Providing daily opportunities for pupils and adults to praise and reach out to God.
- Providing children and adults with opportunities to explore the Christian Faith and develop a relationship with God.
- Heightening the awareness of all of life's ultimate questions and realities of life and to provide good opportunities to reflect on these in their search for meaning and fulfilment.
- Fostering awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy in the miracle of life, the natural world and the miracle of creation.

Christian development shares features with other forms of spirituality in that it is concerned with coming to know ourselves, learning to reflect on experiences, exploring important questions of how to live and treat others, and so reaching a set of beliefs and values by which to guide our lives. Its distinctiveness consists in its capacity through a context of Christian worship, life and teaching, to offer opportunities for all in our school community to develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus.

What is spirituality and how is it developed?

As a school, rooted in the teachings and values of the Church of England, we aim to highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension of life. We assess the impact of spirituality on pupils at St Mary's using the Ten Spiritual Capacities and work closely with Shayne Vickery (author of *Roots and Fruits* vol. 1/2) to develop a deeper understanding of spirituality and how it impacts on our children's everyday life and wellbeing. Spirituality concerns a person's relationship with themselves, with others, with God (or the transcendent) and with nature and environment. These four elements: **self, others, transcendence and beauty** form the basis of our work with children and adults in developing a strong sense of spirituality.

Self:

- Awareness of feelings; the ability to reflect and express.
 - Awareness and appreciation of our uniqueness; happiness with who we are.
 - Gratitude for the things that we have and the person that we are.
 - Exploration of faith through a thorough RE curriculum: Understanding Christianity and the Dudley Syllabus.
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- Development of imagination and creativity.

- Development of an inner self-confidence and peace.
- Development of the capacity for enquiry and open-mindedness.

Others:

- Empathy and understanding, respect and tolerance.
- To love and to be loved (loving your neighbour). Form and maintain worthwhile and rewarding relationships, foster and appreciation of the individuality of others and foster a sense of community.
- Making a difference – duty.

Transcendence (Beyond):

- Exploration of the Christian Faith and development of a relationship with God.
- Development of an awareness of God's love and care for them personally.
- Development of a sense that there is more to life than 'meets the eye', more than a physical and material existence.
- Face distressing or difficult matters such as life and death, suffering, grief and loss in a context of a loving Christian teaching and support.
- Opportunities for prayer; connecting with God.
- Making sense of the world.

Beauty:

- Developing a sense of awe and wonder and the miracle of God's world by experiencing moments of stillness and quiet.
- Enjoying the miracles of everyday life.
- Taking time for what really matters.
- Appreciating beauty in art, music, nature.

Opportunities for reflection are planned into collective worship and throughout the school day, through moments of stillness and quiet. Children are encouraged to ask searching questions about God's worlds and the teachings of Jesus. Planned experiences in school and church at key Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost offer children the opportunity to reflect on God as creator and provider. Adults provide a role model to children by sharing in the joy of discovery and in the wonder of God's creation. Our enthusiasm for education that truly nurtures human wholeness will be significant in creating the appropriate ethos for the human spirit to thrive.

Monitoring and evaluation:

This policy is a working document.

The provision for spiritual development will be considered and monitored by Foundation Governors and the Senior Leadership Team.

Key questions for the school to consider are:

- How is the distinctive nature of our school reflected in the curriculum?
- How does it permeate other aspects of school life?
- What are the consequences of this for the learner, staff and wider community?
- How are staff inducted and supported so that they have a shared understanding of the distinctive nature of our school?
- How does the school's environment support this?