



St. George's CE Primary School

Spirituality Statement

Rationale:

'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' (John Bradford). Spirituality embraces our central values.

Our school vision of COURAGE - *'Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'* Joshua 1.9A key part of that is to nurture children's spiritual awareness and develop each child's spiritual character.

Introduction

In our school we believe in supporting the growth and development of the whole person for all those for whom we have a responsibility. This therefore includes staff (at all levels), Children and where appropriate/possible their families. When we talk about the whole person, we are referring to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of who they are. In this document we aim to set out how we will try and support the spiritual development of each individual in our care.

What is our shared understanding of spirituality?

Spirituality in its widest sense speaks about something internal, the human spirit or soul as opposed to the external material or physical things.

Spirituality then is about recognising our place in this world and our connection with it, with one another and with God and exploring how that reflected in our daily lives.

How do we support spirituality at our school?

Specifically, we seek to raise spiritual awareness in the following ways:

- Through example – The way we model behaviour, conversation and care for one another should reflect love, compassion, respect and an awareness of the world around us.
- Through teaching – Specifically in RE and PSHE but in all subjects where appropriate we will take opportunity to reflect on how our learning impacts our place in the world and how we should respond.
- Through Collective Worship – We place a strong emphasis in Collective worship, whether it be whole school, class or in any other form. Our collective worship should reflect our Christian

foundation in all aspects and where appropriate allow space for personal reflection upon how the Christian faith and teaching impacts and leads in our daily lives. It should also offer space for prayer either individual or led and be inclusive to those of others faiths and those of none.

- Through our relationship with the church – As a school we have a good relationship with the local church and together we seek to encourage all to have an open mind with one another's beliefs.

Some tools we use to develop a strong sense of spirituality

- Have regular time in the day for quiet and reflection. This might be listening to a story, lighting a candle in collective worship, going for a walk.
- Provide many opportunities for creativity and using the imagination.
- Valuing play opportunities.
- Singing often, especially with others.
- Ensuring regular time for prayer. Allow children the opportunity to open themselves to God.
- Provide frequent opportunities for children to explore, express and share feelings.
- Constantly reaffirm the importance of relationships. How we talk to and relate with each other is fundamental.
- Provide opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms, and appreciate the connections and unity in the world.
- Encourage each other to admit mistakes and to say sorry. Recognising and owning up to faults is an important healing and redemptive process.
- Encourage children to show kindness, caring and compassion, and to express these in practical ways. (eg: how we treat each other every day; charitable works; looking after pets).
- Explore the 'Big Questions' – particularly through our RE programme.
- Read often to children, and give them opportunities to discuss and reflect. This includes both secular and religious texts, in particular the Bible.

Impact: how do we know this is being effective?

Spiritually developed children love and accept themselves and enjoy good relationships with each other. They take an interest and delight in the world around them; they are open to what lies beyond. They are able to express and understand feelings, they have a strong moral sense and a love of what is good. They are able to enjoy quiet and stillness, they possess an active imagination, and show joy in creativity and discovering new skills.