



Spiritual Development Policy

GROWING TOGETHER

As a school we believe in everyone growing together to be the best version of ourselves. Our school vision is underpinned by the parable of the mustard seed:

*"The kingdom of heaven is like a **mustard seed**, which is the **smallest** of all **seeds** on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." Matthew 13: 31-32.*

The Christian Values of the school are:

Hope
Trust
Thankfulness
Endurance
Forgiveness
Respect

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is a process of growth. An important part of an individual's development is becoming aware of and reflecting on experiences and interpreting them in a way that allows self-knowledge, personal views and insights to grow, and applying past experiences to life. This whole area of community and the fostering of good relationships are vital for understanding spirituality in a school.

Aims and Purpose

Spiritual development in our school seeks to support every individual on their spiritual quest. Some aims for spiritual development in our school are for each child to:

- Acquire insight into their personal existence,
- Make sense of their life experiences,
- Develop a sense of wonder, awe, reverence, imagination,
- Develop a sense of the presence of God / self-awareness of being in their lives,
- Develop the ability of being still yet alert

- Develop the ability to use all of their senses
- To promote an awareness of enjoyment in using their imaginative potential
- To encourage quiet reflection during a lesson
- Develop self-confidence in expressing inner thoughts in a variety of ways
- Develop a positive self- image and self-esteem in pupils
- To find inner peace
- Have the ability to ask and consider life’s big questions

We also recognise that the school can make a valuable contribution to the spiritual lives of families, the parish, the wider church and the local community.

Opportunities for Spiritual Development

We aim to:

- Provide opportunities for prayer and reflection
- Provide opportunities for experiential techniques such as listening, being still and quiet, perceiving the senses, being aware of the recent moment, imaginary journeys, guided imagery, attention to an object, exploring stories and self-awareness.
- Deepen knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major faiths of the world.
- Develop positive relationships in the school community
- Develop a spirit of enquiry and open-mindedness enhanced by the use of skilful and sensitive questioning by the teacher
- Encourage the search for meaning and life as a spiritual quest
- Develop self-knowledge and values by which to live
- Develop creativity by expressing innermost thoughts, imagination and feelings through art, appropriate music, literature and crafts.

Develop feelings and emotions by being moved by beauty and kindness, hurt by injustice or aggression, a growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to use such feelings as a source for growth.

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Signed: (Headteacher)

Signed: (On Behalf of Governors)