

## Policy on Spiritual Development

### GROWING TOGETHER into the very best version of ourselves

*"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.*

#### As a school we work hard to

- *Grow our hearts and our minds, by working together*
- *Grow our trust and our kindness, by listening to each other*
- *Grow our abilities and our ambitions, by doing our best*

#### The Christian Values of the school are:

Fellowship  
Thankfulness  
Respect  
Reverence  
Peace  
Hope  
Trust  
Service  
Justice  
Forgiveness  
Endurance  
Friendship  
Wisdom  
Compassion

#### 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 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

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 the Christian 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.

### **Subject specific Opportunities**

September 2024

Signed: ..... (Head teacher)

Signed: ..... (on behalf of Governors)