

Spiritual Development Policy



Approved by: Full Governing Board

Date: November 2019

Last reviewed: February 2023

Next review date: February 2026

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1. Our Vision and Ethos

“At Lulworth and Winfrith CE VC Primary School we are committed to providing an education that encompasses academic achievement, cultural experiences, sporting opportunities and spiritual nourishment.”

Our strong spiritual, moral and Christian values permeate all that we do in our school and community. We believe that supporting children’s spiritual development is key to promoting and fostering an inclusive and respectful culture within our school in which children can flourish.

Our school vision is underpinned by ‘The Parable of the Mustard Seed’.

‘We nurture our children to become resilient learners, supportive friends and responsible citizens. Just as in the story of the mustard seed – to grow from something small to something mighty’.

‘We provide each child with opportunities and experiences that allow them to develop the belief and confidence that they can achieve anything’.

Our school vision and ethos and Christian values of Belief, Fellowship and Harmony underpin our approach towards spiritual development and this is further supported by the development of our learning values:

Resilience
Aspiration
Courage
Collaboration
Trust
Friendship
Respect
Kindness
Forgiveness.

Through our nurturing, positive and caring environment, we provide the opportunity for every child to grow and flourish and ensure that all children are ready for their next steps in their education. They learn to show kindness and respect to others and make valuable contributions as they move through their life.

2. Spirituality – Our Definition

Spirituality is defined in different ways across a range of cultures and beliefs. Many definitions consider spirituality to be connected with individuals relating to people’s thoughts and beliefs, rather than to their bodies and physical surroundings.

The diagram below outlines how we feel spirituality can be related to a sense of self awareness, awareness of others and an awareness of the wider world. It is through this process that we explore and develop spirituality within the school.

SELF Developing a sense of self awareness – your own thoughts, beliefs and behaviours	OTHERS Developing a sense of how individual actions affect others
WIDER WORLD Developing a sense of how these actions affect the wider world	BEYOND Developing an individual sense of beyond our own world

3. Aims

3.1 To develop in each child:

- A sense of self-worth stemming from the recognition that they are created in the image of God.
- A sense of being in relationship with others and a growing understanding of what it means to belong to a community.
- An involvement with others in the wider world and an appreciation of difference and diversity.
- A response to the distinctive 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.
- A willingness to explore Christian beliefs and values through a knowledge of Bible stories and Christian teaching in order that these might become a firm foundation for life.
- The ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc
- The ability to realise that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss can be occasions for spiritual growth and development
- A capacity to value the natural world and a commitment to care for creation
- A willingness to explore the ultimate questions and mysteries of life.

3.2 Approaches:

- In our school we seek to find ways in which all areas of the curriculum can contribute to children's spiritual development and to highlight opportunities for these in our planning.
- We seek to foster spiritual capacities, eg imagination, insight and empathy.
- We allow children the opportunity to explore and express feelings and emotions.
- We provide opportunities for prayer and reflection, including silence and stillness.
- We share feelings and experiences that foster hope and joy, reassurance and encouragement.
- We encourage children to develop relationships based on the values of respect, trust, kindness and forgiveness.
- We enable children to make the links between biblical values, the life of the school and the wider community.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

Opportunities offered to children for Spiritual Development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways:

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning by co-ordinator/senior management/headteacher/governors.
- Audit of policies and schemes of work.
- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Evidence from pupils' work, eg reflective diary / floor books
- Regular inclusion in SEF / SIAMS SEF.