

St. Edmund's C of E Primary and Nursery School



Learning through faith,
we dream, believe and achieve.

Spirituality

Opening Statement

As a Church of England school, our spirituality is expressed through our understanding of the Christian gospel, rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. We fully respect that our pupils come from Christian families, from families of other faiths and from families of no faith, and that pupils will hold beliefs and values of their own. Through our spirituality policy, our aim is to enable all our pupils to reflect deeply on what it means to be human and to ascribe meaning and value to human existence.

At our Church School all aspects of school life reflect a Christian ethos and this policy is based on Christian principles. While with us all children will be on a journey to discover 'life in all its fullness' this includes their spiritual development. We believe that it is very important to provide all children with a range of opportunities to help them develop spiritually. We believe that spiritual development may not be synonymous with Religious Education and Collective Worship and can be explored through many different curriculum areas.

Aims:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of St Edmunds C of E Primary School as well as the context, language, and symbolism of the Christian faith.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them.
- Develop an awareness of and respect for other people's beliefs and faiths and the ability to articulate their own.
- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community
- Develop strategies to build good mental health
- Foster self-awareness and encourage pupils to make informed decisions.
- Begin to understand and make sense of their own feelings and emotions around certain encounters and events that occur in their life.
- Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth;
- Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others.
- Encourage curiosity, creativity and imagination.
- Develop the ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc
- Develop a capacity to value the natural world, a sense of awe and wonder and a commitment to care for creation

Our curriculum

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues the aims and objectives by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be driven by the school's Christian vision statement and associated values.
- That the RE curriculum delivers knowledge and understanding of spirituality from a number of world faith and world view perspective
- That children are given as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed, cherished and protected
- The provision of opportunities to listen attentively and observe carefully, listening with discernment, valuing what is good and worthwhile and making judgements through discussion and exchange of views and ideas;

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 by:

- Seeking to foster spiritual capacities, e.g. imagination, insight and empathy;
- Allowing children the security and opportunity to explore and express feelings and emotions and to celebrate diversity
- Encouraging children to develop relationships based on the school's Christian vision and associated values;
- Providing an environment that promotes space to reflect, think and wonder.

Facilitating spiritual development

- Everyone involved in the life of the school is valued and seen to be valued.
- Policies and ensuing practices are clearly seen to reflect the worth of individuals.
- Mood management policies and practices are collectively arrived at and discussed regularly.
- All adults recognise the need to set good examples of mutual respect and considerate behaviour.
- The quality and nature of the learning environment and displays reflect the value placed on pupils and staff.
- The atmosphere of the school welcomes differences in beliefs and values and invites everyone to belong.
- The achievements, successes and efforts of everyone are recognised and celebrated.
- There is a daily act of collective worship
- Our RE curriculum is inspiring, motivating and challenging.
- Visits and visitors support all our work.

Monitoring and evaluation

Spiritual development cannot be measured and continues throughout our lives.

However, opportunities offered to children for spiritual development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways;

- Observing and listening to children; reflecting on this.
- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings alongside the school's Christian vision and values;
- Sharing of classroom work and practice;
- Ensuring that staff have a clear understanding of what spirituality means in this school by providing them with induction and development training;
- Evidence from pupils' work, e.g. R.E floor books, creative writing, art;
- Regular inclusion in the school's evaluation;
- CPD opportunities and sharing examples of good practice with other schools.

Review

The Governing Body of HTPD first adopted this policy in 2021. It will be reviewed biennially, or more regularly in the light of any significant new developments.

Date for next review: September 2022