



Spirituality Policy

Vision

“Good people, doing well” (*Titus 3:14*)

Rationale

The Church school offers a spiritual and moral basis for the development of human wholeness and a sure foundation for personal and social values based on the person and ministry of Christ. A distinctive language is provided for understanding life and interpreting human experience. As a community of faith, the Church school should, in its best expression, reflect the nature of the Trinity, a life shared and defined by reference to others. Here we can begin to discover who we are, why we are, and – perhaps most importantly – what we might be.

The Way Ahead, Chapter 3 para 3.26

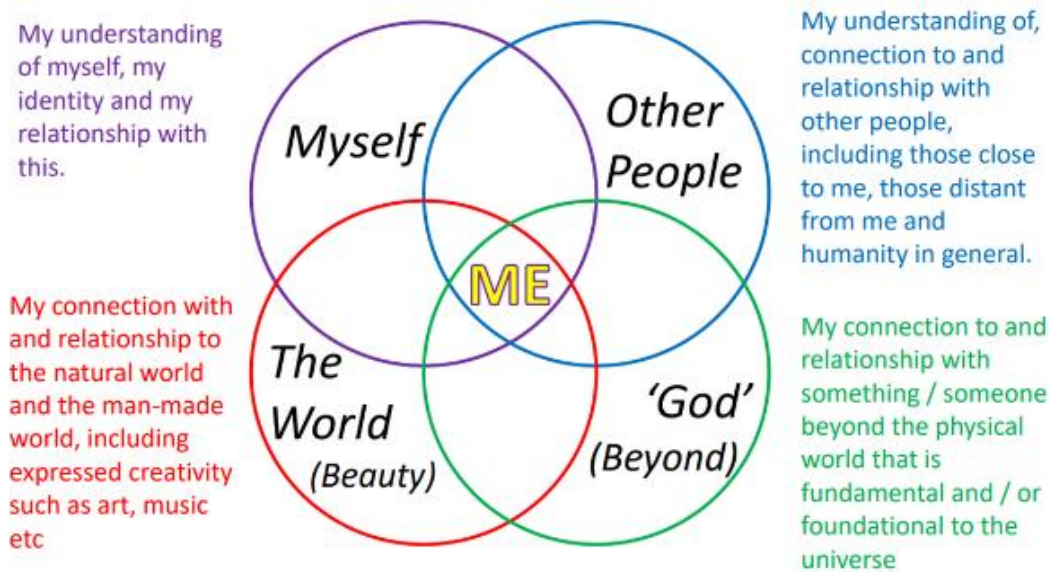
Our school vision supports spiritual development because there is the expectation that this will enable everyone in our school to flourish, and become “*Good people, doing well*”. When planning experiences for both adults and children, we will consider what they will gain from those experiences. This may be academic improvement, social development or spiritual growth. We believe that spirituality comes throughout the taught and extra curriculum, and exists beyond acts of collective worship. These will naturally enable people the time and space to reflect and develop spiritual understanding, but wider experiences will also act as ‘windows’ to unlock moments of awe and wonder that promote the spiritual dimension of life.

Our definition of Spirituality

In our schools, we believe that spiritual development means the opportunities that everyone has to reflect and consider themselves and their place in the world, the others around them, the beauty that they see, and things that are beyond their immediate location. Often, these will arise from those ‘wow’ moments that fascinate and lead to further contemplation and consideration. In providing these moments, we enable our school community to flourish in their learning and in life more generally. We acknowledge the need to become aware of the world in all its wonder.

We believe that spirituality can be defined as a growing understanding of **self** (*being a unique person and understanding self-perception*), **others** (*how empathy, concern, compassion and other values and principles affect relationships*), **the world & beauty** (*perceiving and relating to the physical and creative world through responses to nature and*

art, and environmental factors), and **beyond** (relating to the transcendental and understanding experienced and meaning outside the 'everyday', a connection with God).



Guidance on Spirituality

Our approach draws from the work of David Smith and Liz Mills:

- the need to become aware of the world in all its wonder but also a sad realisation of its many problems, i.e. to realise that the world is both 'awe-full' but also sadly 'awful' at times too, (to be aware of both its 'Wows' but also its 'Ows')
- the need to have a chance to reflect or think on this both alone and with others
- the need to apply what has been learnt from this process in some sort of expressive, active way.

We will often represent this as

Windows for looking out onto the world and becoming aware of its wonders, both the 'wows' and 'ows'; things that are 'awe-full' and make us wonder and be grateful and things that are 'awful' and make us wonder and ask questions.

Mirror for looking into and reflecting, alone and together, to see things more clearly, for thinking and asking important questions learning from our own and each other's responses.

Doors for looking through in order to then act or express this in some way in response; for moving on, making choices, and doing something creative, active and purposeful in response.

Spiritual flourishing in our schools

We aspire to ensure that everyone in our school has the opportunity to grow spiritually as well as academically. This is in line with the Church of England's vision for education, with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart.

We believe that children can only flourish if their lives are enriched spiritually. We aim to provide multiple ways for them to receive this enrichment throughout all our daily interactions. This will include collective worship, but also our curriculum as we build opportunities into other areas of provision.

Collective Worship

Our acts of collective worship are central to the life of our school. These have many purposes, but spiritual development is at the heart of them all. During acts of collective worship, there will be opportunities to grow spiritually, becoming more aware of the world around us, growing our fascination for it, and having the time and space to reflect and consider it more fully. Through these opportunities, pupils will grow spiritually. They will be guided in their thinking and will appreciate how this can be applied to their own lives.

Teaching

Our curriculum offers many opportunities to develop spirituality. Some of these will be planned moments, where pupils are given time to reflect. Others will be more spontaneous, arising from the 'wow' moments when children encounter something for the first time. Teachers will always consider where opportunities for spiritual growth might be provided when planning their lessons.

Different aspects of the curriculum will offer the opportunity for pupils to apply what has been learnt in an expressive, active way. This is why our lessons do not always lead to a written response and we believe that there are other ways that children can express themselves. In doing so, they are enhancing their spiritual growth. Our classrooms are safe spaces that allow children to explore and share thoughts and values together.

Throughout our curriculum we offer opportunities for children to practice 'mindfulness'. This can be linked to the notion of making space for exploring the spiritual (Anne Lumb). In the same way, subjects including RE allow the opportunity for pupils to explore 'big questions' that contribute towards their spiritual growth.

Monitoring

Governors will monitor how effectively our vision is being enacted in our schools, and how we are planning for and achieving spiritual development. SIAMS inspectors will also investigate this through the work that they undertake.

R Weights
July 2024