



## Spirituality Policy

Our vision, rooted in the words of Jesus (Matthew 19:14), “***Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these,***” is to provide a safe, happy and caring environment where all pupils are nurtured and valued within a Christian ethos. To achieve our vision we:

- provide inspirational and enjoyable learning experiences through a curriculum that is broad, balanced and based on the needs of our children
- work hard to reach our full potential
- share each other's success
- promote a sense of belonging to our school, local and Church community
- foster high self-esteem and nurture high aspirations
- ensure pupils become more confident independent learners
- provide a safe, warm and welcoming Christian environment within which everyone feels valued and respected
- develop spirituality, a moral ethos and an appreciation for Christian values
- enable everyone to grow and blossom into responsible and successful citizens through the firm Christian foundations we provide and an appreciation of national and global communities.

We are a strong team of proud pupils, parents, staff, governors, the Church and the local community.

Our Christian faith gives rise to our service to God and to the community. Our core principles are friendship, forgiveness, hope, trust and courage. These give rise to justice, wisdom and thankfulness.

29/3/22

Accepted by Staff and Governors

March  
2026

Date for Review

At Christchurch CE Academy we believe that Spirituality is the aspect of our wellbeing which organises the values, the relationships, and the meaning and purpose of our lives. People who are spiritual tend to have a more positive outlook and a better quality of life. Some of the benefits of spiritual wellness include having compassion, the capacity for love and forgiveness, altruism, joy, and fulfilment.

At Christ Church CE Academy we nurture our children to develop attitudes and attributes based upon our core Christian values of:

**Trust**

**Friendship**

**Forgiveness**

**Courage**

**Hope**

Ultimately, we strive to develop our children's skills and build their character so they grow into valuable citizens who are equipped for the modern world. Citizens who know what they believe, are respectful of others beliefs, have empathy for others, have connection with the natural world, the Arts and beauty and an ability to connect with that which is intangible.

At Christ Church CE Academy, we believe Spirituality is that aspect of our well-being which organises the values, the relationships, and the meaning and purpose of our lives.

In the words of Jesus Christ, "***Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these,***" (Matthew 19:14), at Christ Church CE Academy we endeavour to develop and enrich the Spiritual journey for all who enter our doors.

### **Aims:**

Spirituality is our ability to understand who we are and how we fit into the world. It is our perception in relation to ourselves, our relationship with others, our relationship and connection with the natural and man-made world (including our response to the Arts and 'beauty') and our relationship with 'God' or something beyond the physical world that is fundamental or foundational to the universe.

It is our aim to provide opportunities to build our children's aspirations, their sense of identity, belonging, their principles, beliefs and values. We want them to appreciate the world around them, take responsibility and become conscious of the choices they make.

At Christchurch CE Academy, we aim to foster spiritual development throughout all areas of provision by:

- Fostering the spiritual development of each child, regardless of age, sex, ability or cultural background.
- Providing a context of faith, security and loving relationships to support each child's spiritual search.
- Fostering self-awareness and promote a feeling of self-worth.
- Exploring Christian beliefs, other major world beliefs, non-religious beliefs and beliefs that are personal and relevant to them.
- Developing positive human qualities.
- Developing respect and empathy for other people and their beliefs.
- Fostering a respect for different people's feelings and values.
- Developing the children's enthusiasm to explore and learn through enquiry and first-hand experiences
- Enabling the children to attribute meaning to experiences.
- Enabling the children to value the non-material dimension of life.
- Fostering reflection on thoughts, actions and experiences.
- Giving opportunities for stillness.
- Fostering a sense of meaning, purpose and direction in life.
- Encouraging imagination and creativity.
- Developing a sense of awe and wonder at the miracle of creation, life and the natural world.
- Enabling the children to experience a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them, including the intangible.
- Fostering a willingness to explore the ultimate questions and mysteries of life.

#### **Children's' spiritual development is shown by their:**

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible □ Use of imagination and creativity in their learning □ Willingness to reflect on their experiences.

#### **Our School promotes teaching styles which:**

- Value the whole child as a person of infinite worth and untold potential □ Encourage and value pupils' questions, and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns
- Create opportunities to listen, to reflect and to question.
- Enable pupils to make connections between aspects of their learning
- Encourage pupils to relate their learning to open ended responses – for example, asking 'why?', 'how?' and 'where?' as well as 'what?'
- Open up deep questions about the meaning and mystery of life and change
- Encourage creativity and creative responses
- Explore and value diversity and difference and challenge prejudice

## Where will spiritual development opportunities occur?

Spiritual development occurs in many ways, both planned and unplanned. However, at Christ Church CE Academy, we aim to ensure that children:

- Have regular times in the day for quiet and reflection. This might be listening to a story, lighting a candle in worship, engaging in reflection activities in spaces around school
- Will be provided with many opportunities for creativity and imagination
- Will be provided with purposeful and regular opportunities for prayer
- Will have regular opportunities to explore, express and share feelings
- Will see positive relationships role modelled around school. The importance of relationships will be reaffirmed to them
- Have opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms and appreciate connections and unity in the world
- Will be encouraged to develop **Forgiveness, Hope, Courage, Friendship and Trust** and express these in practical ways.
- Have opportunities to explore 'Big Questions', particularly through RE learning

Our children are given opportunities to develop a strong sense of spirituality beliefs and are able to talk about their beliefs/life views. They are given opportunities for this during Collective Worship and discussion times for reflection. Children discuss their beliefs in RE and PSHE and on a day to day basis and as it comes up across the curriculum.

A wide range of opportunities are given across the curriculum to promote a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible.

There are many areas for quiet reflection, including reflection areas in each classroom and the outdoor 'Spiritual Garden'. Children are given time to reflect and respond in Collective Worship and Spirituality; during yoga and mindfulness, and RE and PSHE lessons.

There are frequent opportunities for children to explore, express and share feelings; providing opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms and appreciate the connections and unity in the world.

This includes providing opportunities to engage with nature, eg forest school, gardens, walks and trips out.

The enquiry based RE curriculum is inspiring and motivating and incorporates activities that encourage enquiry, investigation, questioning and reflection. Our Collective Worship incorporates 'deep' questions about the intangible such as Who is God?

Our children are creative, inquisitive and love learning, with opportunities provided across the curriculum through Art, Music, Drama, Forest School and Dance. Children are able to reflect upon and discuss experiences. They can say what impact experiences have had.

Our children can enjoy quiet stillness in Collective Worship, spirituality, yoga, mindfulness and some RE units. They are able to express and understand feelings and show interest in what may lie beyond the material and for many this is a faith in God.

Children learn to value of non-material dimension in life through participation in Collective Worship, RE, RSHE and through undertaking initiatives such as the Junior Duke Award. These initiatives alongside our 'Proud Pupil' system and 'Student Leadership' build character, a strong moral code and promote Courageous Advocacy.

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