

Spiritual Development Policy

Reviewed: June 2020

Approved by the Governing Body: June 2020

Next Review date: September 2021



Inspiring happy, **courageous**, independent, curious and creative, life-long learners. We aim for all to achieve their full potential, striving both academically and socially with **humility** and **dignity**.

Believing being anchored in Jesus Christ will guide us all with **hope**, **compassion** and **wisdom** in becoming successful members of a global community.

Learning for Life Anchored in Christ

Rationale

Teaching Christian beliefs and values is extremely important since it will govern how children will treat one another and be of service to others. In such trying times, it is up to the faithful to fulfil their duty and keep their Christian values alive and intact. Our Christian values will provide children with an opportunity to develop spiritually. In this way, they may reflect on the bigger questions of life and refine their moral judgement in order to make better and wiser decisions. It will allow them to experience God in a more profound way.

Hope

It is important for children to be taught early on that they will need more than dreams, fantasy, and wishes – they need hope. Hope is a complex emotion. It is made up of a desire for something, and it has an expectation of fulfilment someday. Hope is not just wishful thinking, but a firm belief in God. Hope means trusting in God and His goodness. This is why Hope is called the anchor of the soul. Hope is coupled with faith and love as one of the three most enduring gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Love

Love is a core Christian value. This unmerited favour is realized through God because of God's unmerited favour and grace towards us. God offers His love to mankind in the form of eternal life, granted to us through Jesus Christ. The most fundamental characteristic of love is that it seeks to find the goodness in others.

Compassion

The best way to teach our children compassion is by regularly practicing visible compassion in front of and as an example to them. This is why it is important for all staff to take part and get children involved in compassion projects. It is important for us to make our children realize that compassion has a much stronger meaning than simply "feeling sorry for" someone.

Humility

The values taught in the Bible often stand in opposition to worldly values. Humility is definitely one of those values. Humility is the opposite of pride, which caused Satan and many others to fall. True humility is a quality that every Christian man and woman desires. Of all the words that can be used to characterize Christ, humility is high on that list (Philippians 2). Humility is one of the most desperately needed character traits simply because so many other virtues flow from this quality.

Courage

Courage isn't about something magical that happens inside us to make us 'not scared'. It's about something magical that happens inside us to make us push through fear, self-doubt, anxiety, and do the things that feel hard or risky or frightening. Sometimes, courage only has to happen for seconds at a time – just long enough to be brave enough.

There's something else that kids need to know about courage – you don't always see the effects of it straight away. Courage might mean being kind to the new kid in class, trying something new, speaking up for something they believe in. Often, these things don't come with fireworks or applause. In fact, they rarely do. The differences they make can take time to reveal, but when actions are driven by courage, the differences those actions make will always be there, gently taking shape and changing their very important corners of the world in some way. ways to nurture their brave: Failure and rejection are often a sign that you've done something brave. Every experience gives new information and new wisdom that wouldn't have been there before. It's why only the brave ones get there in the end – they have the knowledge, wisdom, and experience that can often only be found when you land badly – sometimes more than once. Give them space for imperfections. Let them know that it's okay to hang on while they're getting comfortable – while they're working on a plan, fanning the brave spark inside them (and it's always inside them), but then there will be a time to let go. Encourage them to do activities that push them to the edges of their physical or emotional selves – drama, sport, music. Anything that will help to nurture the truth to life that they are strong, powerful, that they can cope, and that they are not as fragile as they might feel sometimes will help to nurture their brave hearts. Courage isn't only about pushing against their own edges. Sometimes it's about pushing against the friends who might steer them off track, the limiting expectations of others, the media, the majority, the world. Give space for their intuition to flourish – and teach them how to use it. Encourage their sense of adventure. Brave is about doing what's right for them.

By living and modelling these Christian values to our children, both staff and the children can live life to its fullness

Aims

To develop in each child:

- A sense of self-worth stemming from the recognition that they are created in the image of God.
- An understanding that Jesus is the anchor that keeps us safe and secure in God as our hope.
- 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 realize 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.

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 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 Christian values of love, kindness, compassion, humility, forgiveness and service to others.
- We enable children to make the links between biblical values the life of the school and the wider community.

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 Pastoral manager/SLT/governors.
- Audit of policies and schemes of work.
- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Evidence from pupil voice
- Regular inclusion in SEF.