

St. Peter's C.E. Primary School



Spiritual Development Policy

Vision and Values

At St. Peter's, our vision is for all pupils to **flourish academically, spiritually, and socially**. Rooted in the values of **Love, Hope, and Wisdom**, we aim to nurture a learning environment where children develop their unique potential, build meaningful relationships, and explore life's big questions with curiosity and confidence. Our approach to spiritual development underpins this vision, encouraging a deeper connection with the self, others, the world, and 'the beyond.'

As a Church of England school, our values are rooted in teachings from the Bible:

"Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Matthew 22:39

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you **hope** and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

"Blessed are those who find **wisdom**, those who gain understanding." Proverbs 3:13

Aims of the Policy

The spiritual development of our pupils is central to their growth as whole individuals. This policy sets out how we foster spiritual development through:

1. **Encouraging self-awareness and personal growth.**
2. **Cultivating empathy and respect for others.**
3. **Promoting a sense of awe and responsibility for the natural world.**
4. **Providing opportunities to explore life's big questions and the concept of the divine.**

The Four Dimensions of Spirituality

1. The Self

We aim to help children:

- Develop self-awareness and confidence in their unique identity.
- Reflect on their own beliefs, values, and actions, learning from both successes and mistakes.
- Recognise their potential, build resilience, and appreciate their inner strength.
- Practise gratitude for the good in their lives, including relationships and experiences.
- Engage their imagination and creativity in meaningful ways.

Examples of application in the curriculum:

There are many opportunities to develop 'the self' in the curriculum. Collective worship provides many opportunities for reflection on the teachings of the bible and how those teachings may apply to their own lives. Any occasions when a child finds learning challenging is an opportunity to build resilience and a 'growth mindset', whether it be solving a complicated maths problem or trying to master a skill in PE. Imagination and creativity can be developed in several areas, such as in Art lessons or when writing fiction texts.

2. Others

We encourage pupils to:

- Develop empathy, understanding, and respect for people of all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds.
- Build meaningful relationships through acts of generosity, kindness, and forgiveness.
- Appreciate the diversity and shared humanity within the school and the wider community.

Examples of application in the curriculum:

Religious education is a particularly important subject learn about the faiths of others. Personal and social education (PSHE), as well as Collective Worship, provide numerous opportunities to learn about generosity, kindness and forgiveness.

3. The World

We inspire pupils to:

- Appreciate the beauty and complexity of the natural world.
- Cultivate a sense of awe and wonder, leading to responsible actions to protect and sustain the environment.
- Explore questions about the world, imagining ways to make it a better place.

Examples of application in the curriculum:

PSHE, Geography, Science and Art are key subjects in cultivating an appreciation of the beauty and complexity of the natural world. Religious education and Collective worship are central to imagining ways to make the world a better place.

4. 'The Beyond'

We provide space for pupils to:

- Explore life's big questions about meaning, purpose, and existence.
- Reflect on mystery and the unknown, recognizing that some questions may not have clear answers.
- Encounter and consider the concept of a divine presence or 'the beyond.'

Examples of application in the curriculum:

Religious education and Collective worship are key to exploring and reflecting upon life's big questions.

Wider opportunities for spiritual development

There are many informal occasions that arise within the school day in which we promote children's spiritual development. If a child acts with compassion or kindness, their conduct is celebrated. If a child hurts another, we help them to reflect on their actions and encourage them to change course in the future.

Our ethos group provides a leading role as 'agents of change' to help to make the world a better place and to encourage children to participate directly in bringing about those changes.

We have a 'Big Questions' lunchtime club for Year 6 children, run by St. Peter's church, which enables further exploration of meaning, purpose and existence.

Developing the Skill of 'Noticing'

We believe that teaching children to pause, reflect, and 'notice' enhances their spiritual growth. This involves:

- Encouraging mindfulness and presence through simple, intentional practices.
- Providing reflective prompts during lessons and at key moments in the school day.

Monitoring

We provide opportunities periodically for staff to reflect on the effectiveness of this policy and its impact in practice. Monitoring from governors and senior staff further informs the development of our practice.