

Tarporley CE Primary School **Spirituality Policy**

Rationale

Spirituality is a powerful force that determines what we are and our self-understanding. It forms the basis for successful relationships and shapes our behaviour and outlook on life, others and the world around us. It can be understood from a child's point of view as ways of being with God and the ways God is with us.

Spiritual development relates to that aspect of inner life through which we acquire insight into our personal experiences, which are of enduring worth.

At Tarporley Church of England Primary School, spirituality is expressed through our strong Christian faith and the recognition of the spiritual nature of mankind.

Our ethos enables and encourages all children to grow and flourish spiritually, and to 'Let their Light Shine' (Matthew 5).

It is our aim that the children's individual spiritual development is fostered as an important part of the range of learning opportunities and experiences they encounter as part of the curriculum, and that it permeates all strands of school life.

Aims

The aims for spirituality at Tarporley Church of England Primary School are:

- To provide a context of faith, security and loving relationships to support each child's spiritual search
- To foster the spiritual development of each child, regardless of age, sex, ability or cultural background
- To foster self-awareness and promote a feeling of self-worth
- To develop a set of values, principles and beliefs
- To develop respect and empathy for other people and their beliefs
- To foster a respect for different people's feelings and values
- To develop the children's enthusiasm to explore and learn through enquiry and first hand experiences
- To enable the children to value the non-material dimension of life
- To foster reflection and stillness
- To encourage imagination and creativity
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder at the miracle of creation, life and the natural world
- To enable the children to experience a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- To share Christian stories and respond to Christian festivals, rituals and symbols, particularly those from the Anglican tradition
- To encourage prayer as a means of introducing children to Jesus and reinforcing their relationship with God so that children can communicate with Him directly in their own words and from their hearts.

Our Curriculum

Our whole-school curriculum is planned and delivered through our **BOOKS** approach. In order that all learners grow and reach their full potential, we want our curriculum to:

Demonstrate **BRAVERY**– we want our teachers to be ambitious when planning our curriculum with high expectations of all learners. We want our learners to be brave, willing to take risks and get things wrong, and show resilience alongside a strong desire to learn and grow

Be **OUTWARD-FACING** – our curriculum will look beyond our school to our local community and will encourage children to see themselves as part of the wider national and global community. They will learn from other countries, faiths and cultures and we will celebrate differences while recognising that all life on Earth is precious. Our children will understand they have the power to affect change through courageous advocacy and both ask and answer Big Questions

Create memorable **OPPORTUNITIES** – we want our children’s time at Tarporley to be filled with happy memories that spark their curiosity, motivate them to reach their full potential, ensure learning is ‘sticky’ and instil in them a life-long love of learning. Our broad and ambitious curriculum will embrace learning outside the classroom, and will recognise the importance of cultural capital in preparing our children for life and learning beyond our school

Develop **KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS** – we recognise that knowledge is key. Our coherently planned and sequenced curriculum ensures all children can achieve, make sense of the world and make informed judgements and decisions. Vocabulary development will be at the heart of this. Our children will leave us with the skills they need to thrive in the next stage of their learning

Nurture **SPIRITUALITY** – led by our Christian Values, staff will nurture the whole child by developing their social, moral, cultural and spiritual well-being. We recognise spirituality as ways of being with God and the ways God is with us

...while always having high-quality BOOKS and reading at the heart of our teaching and learning!

Organisation and Implementation

Spiritual development is an important element of a child’s education and fundamental to all other areas of learning.

Without curiosity, without the inclination to question, and without imagination, children would lack the motivation to learn. In view of this, teaching styles are adopted which:

- Value the children’s questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns
- Enable the children to make connections between aspects of their learning
- Encourage the children to see their learning within a wider context, e.g. asking ‘why?’, ‘how?’, and ‘where?’ as well as ‘what?’

Spirituality is not taught, but is an integral part of all aspects of school life and is nurtured and promoted as a natural element of the curriculum.

The following opportunities are made available in order to develop the spirituality of all learners:

- To explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the ways in which they impact on peoples’ lives
- To engage in enquiry and exploration as part of experiential, first hand learning
- To look attentively and observe carefully
- To be creative and imaginative
- To listen
- To reflect and respond to issues in moments of quiet or inspired through music, art, text, film or artefacts
- To understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful
- To value what is good and worthwhile and to make value judgements through discussion and the exchanging of views
- To work collaboratively with peers, valuing the contribution made by others
- To respect all as modelled by staff in their relationships with others
- To experience silent, calm and tranquil moments which allow time for reflection
- To work and live in harmony with others in the school and wider community
- To have the confidence to express ideas, views and opinions, even if others do not agree
- To have time set aside for prayer and reflection
- To contribute to and engage with the Reflection Area in each classroom in a meaningful way.

Opportunities for spiritual development are promoted in all aspects of the curriculum and school life as well as during Collective Worship as the children become actively engaged in a curriculum which provides a

wide range of experiential learning opportunities that enable them to question, consider, reflect and respond, and consider their own values, beliefs and feelings and those of others.

Outlined below are some of the key ways in which spiritual development is nurtured and promoted as part of the curriculum:

In Physical Education:

- Being a team member
- Pushing yourself to the limits
- Extremes of skill, endurance and achievement
- Emotion in sport
- Personal limitation and failure
- Sportsmanship.

In Design and Technology:

- Discovering how something works
- Appreciating genius
- Beauty in design
- Perseverance to solve problems
- Personal achievement
- Learning from others and nature.

In English:

- Empathy with authors and the characters in stories and plays
- The appreciation of beauty in language
- Emotions and sentiments in writing and speech
- The values of great works
- Heroes and heroines in literature
- Imagining oneself as someone else
- Escaping into other worlds through literature
- The element of wonder in literature.

In Maths:

- Infinity and nothing
- Pattern and order
- Shape and regularity
- Truth, certainty and likelihood
- The universality of mathematics over time and space
- The wonder of numbers, formulae and equations.

In Science:

- Wonder as the basis of science
- Questions of beginning, creation and evolution
- Discovering the limits of experimentation
- Birth, life, death and renewal
- The universe and beyond
- Regularity and order in science
- Beliefs in science and the faith of scientists
- The impact of scientific achievements.

In Computing:

- The wonder of worldwide instant communication
- The speed of the growth of knowledge
- The accessibility of knowledge and contact with other people worldwide.

In the Creative Arts (Art, Music, Drama and Dance):

- The work of creative artists from a variety of times and places
- Beauty, truth and goodness
- Expressing, interpreting and exploring deep feelings and profound beliefs
- Artistic creativity
- The effects of the arts on emotions and senses
- The arts as means of expressing mood
- Skill in creation and performance, and particularly in personal reflection upon their own creativity using various art forms
- Effects on the emotions and senses
- Personal response and preference
- Mood
- Skill
- Pattern.

In Geography:

- Wonder at the diversity of environments and people
- Questions about the care of the environment
- The beliefs behind particular causes and campaigns
- World (economic) development
- Land formation
- Empathy with people from other parts of the world.

In History:

- Being in touch with past people, things and ideas
- Being part of history
- Handling artefacts
- Influential events and people
- The commitment of significant people in history
- War and peace
- Interpretation in history
- The nature and importance of invention and exploration
- Empathy with people from other times in history.

In Religious Education:

- People, places, things, books, actions and ideas held by religious believers to be holy
- Ultimate questions of meaning and purpose
- Ideas of the divine/questions of God
- Forms of worship
- Use of music, art and drama to express beliefs
- Varieties of beliefs, celebrations and rituals
- Ideas of commitment and belonging to groups and institutions
- The idea of mystery and questions with no clear answers.

In Collective Worship:

- Opportunities for reflection and response are planned into worship
- Stillness
- Personal and collective beliefs are respected
- Sharing and celebrating common beliefs
- Celebrating success
- Sharing happiness, sorrow, hurt, excitement, anticipation and fear
- Common activities such as singing, listening, laughing, praying, reflecting on a theme
- Remembering and celebrating the lives of people of spiritual significance
- Emphasising common purpose and values
- Experiencing emotions.

Through HeartSmart primary school resource:

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- Build resilience, emotional intelligence and active empathy
- Adopt a growth mindset
- Recognising that relationships with others are key
- Understanding that everyone has value
- Learning to love and accept ourselves as well as loving and responding well to others
- Embracing the 5 key principles (the HeartSmart High Five)
 - Don't forget to let love in!
 - Too much selfie isn't healthy!
 - Don't rub it in, rub it out!
 - Fake is a mistake!
 - 'No way through' isn't true!

In addition, as part of the curriculum the children have opportunities:

- To visit places of beauty, interest and challenge
- To admire and wonder at the natural environment and human creative efforts
- To work out personal relationships in unusual and challenging situations
- To experience community cohesion links at a local, national and global level
- To engage in charity based activities.

In order to facilitate spiritual development, the organisation of the school and the environment for learning are such that:

- Everyone involved in the life of the school is valued
- Policies and ensuing practices are clearly seen to reflect the worth of individuals
- Behaviour and people 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.

Assessment

Spirituality will be assessed as an integral part of curriculum practice and the children's involvement in the life of the school community.

These are areas in which children are expected to grow as part of their spiritual development:

- Reflect on their experiences with increasing sensitivity
- Question and explore the meaning of different experiences
- Understand and evaluate a range of possible reasons and interpretations
- Develop personal views and insights
- Apply insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to their own lives in line with the school's Anglican status and history
- Know that belief is valuable and that the Christian belief is endorsed by the whole school community.

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