



Marshfield CE VC Primary School

'Learning Together, Inspiring Each Other, Achieving Our Best'

Spiritual Development Policy

Ratified by Governing Body on	Date: 19/10/21
Due for review	Date: October 2024



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Spiritual Development Policy

“Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking questions, inspiration and being aware of something ‘bigger’ outside of ourselves.”

RATIONALE

As a church school we offer a distinctive education based on Christian principles where every person is valued, encouraged to respond compassionately to others and helped to achieve their potential. At Marshfield Primary School, we will begin to prepare children for life by providing an education, which is broad, balanced and based on the development and application of skills which will be differentiated to meet individual needs.

- We will help children to reach their potential by helping them to develop intellectually, creatively, culturally, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually and above all help them to develop a lifelong love of learning.
- We will do this by creating an attractive environment that is stimulating, safe and for which the children are encouraged to care and respect.
- We will ensure that each child has full access to the activities of the school, regardless of ability, race, gender or religion.
- We will encourage a sense of community spirit through our involvement with the local church and other village and community activities as well as the global community.
- In every aspect of school life we will seek to take account of what is in the best interests of the children.
- We will ensure that all members of the school community feel valued by maintaining good channels of communication, support networks and by listening and responding to issues raised.

When talking about spirituality at Marshfield we use the language *awe and wonder, caring for nature and living things and love.*

Awe and Wonder

Children are born inquisitive, and it is our duty to nurture this natural curiosity and guide them towards looking at the world and noticing, with awe and wonder, the natural and man-made delights all around us. We want to encourage them to ask 'big questions' about life, religion, nature, science and any other area of fascination.

Caring for Nature and Living Things

We provide many opportunities for children to learn about nature and the role they play in protecting our world. As a Church School, this is especially important. We have a peace garden that each class access at least once a week and is led by a team of pupils. We have a bird box with a live feed to our screen in the entrance hall. Through science and topic work, children learn about the world and how they can care for living things.

Love

We are a very caring school and pride ourselves on our ethos of family. Through our Christian Values, we teach children to care for friends, family and the community. We have many family events throughout the school year so children can learn and enjoy spending time with their family in school.

OPPORTUNITIES

How is Spirituality Nurtured?

Children's spiritual development is fostered through all aspects of our provision. It is about the relationships and the values that we consider to be important, as well as the development of knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes. We give children opportunities to:

- Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.
- Begin to develop their own system of beliefs which may or may not include religious beliefs.
- Experience a love of learning through rewarding their enthusiasm and by encouraging exploratory play and learning.
- Reflect upon the world around them and show a sense of awe and wonder towards aspects of the natural world or human achievement.
- Reflect on the situations of others through role play, stories.
- Experience a range of stories, music, art, drama and dance

Teaching opportunities and strategies

As a school, we use windows, doors and mirrors to explore and discuss spirituality across the school day.

WINDOWS: giving children opportunities to become *aware* of the world in new ways; to **wonder** about life's 'Wow!s' (things that are amazing) and 'Oh!s' (things that bring us up short). In this children are learning *about* life in all its fullness.

MIRRORS: giving children opportunities to *reflect* on their experiences; to **meditate** on life's big questions and to consider some possible answers. In this they are learning *from* life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others.

DOORS: giving children opportunities to *respond* to all of this; to **do** something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to *live* by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.

What is the Role of the School Community?

All members of the school community have a responsibility for helping to nurture children's spiritual development.

School staff can do this through:

- Establishing and maintaining a partnership between pupils, parents and staff; recognising and respecting the faith background of the children and their families;
- Taking part in, and supporting, collective acts of worship;
- Being good role models in their conduct towards other members of the community;
- Promoting an attitude of respect for other people and for others' views;
- Nurturing consideration for and generosity towards others.
- Drawing on the experiences of pupils and their families during religious education lessons and beyond;
- Recognising and being constantly aware of the needs and backgrounds of each individual pupil;
- Being willing to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the faiths of others;
- Having a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education.

Pupils can do this through:

- Taking an active part in acts of collective worship;
- Participating in activities which promote the skills allowing them to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice;
- Conducting themselves towards others considerately, in line with the code of conduct;
- Respecting the views and beliefs of others.

Parents can help through:

- Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education;
- Supporting the school's Christian ethos and acts of community worship such as assemblies and church services;
- Respecting the views and beliefs of others.

MONITORING & EVALUATION

The school will review this policy every three years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Inclusion, Music, Equal Opportunities (Race, Gender and Disability) and Child Protection policies.