



'Inspiring learning for life'

Hackleton CEVA Primary School

Spirituality Policy

**Jesus said, 'Love God, and love others as you love yourself.'
(Luke 10, verse 27)**

Rationale

Spirituality is a powerful force that forms the basis for successful relationships, and shapes our behaviour and outlook on life, others and the world. Spiritual development is a life long experience.

At Hackleton CEVA Primary School, the spiritual dimension is expressed through our strong Christian faith, and the recognition of the spiritual nature of mankind. We fully respect that our pupils come from Christian families, from families of other faiths and from families of no faith, and that pupils will hold beliefs and values of their own. Through our spirituality policy, our aim is to enable all our pupils to reflect deeply on what it means to be human and to ascribe meaning and value to human existence.

At Hackleton CEVA Primary School we describe spirituality as finding God in all things, enabling reflection to become aware of God, one another, the world around us and ourselves. Spirituality is the nurturing of the inner life of the soul of a child, enabling and embracing their questions, doubts and the wonder of existence.

Christian spirituality is to point towards a life nurtured on the example of Jesus Christ and his care for others; we aim to develop within children a growing sense of empathy, concern and compassion and an ability to reflect on how our school values affect our relationships with others: "Imagining the journey in another's footsteps," and, "Everyone treasured and loved as a unique child of God." These encapsulate the school's Christian vision, 'Love God, and love others as you love yourself.'

Spirituality is something fundamental in the human condition which is not necessarily experienced through the physical senses and /or expressed through everyday language. It has to do with the universal search for individual identity – with our responses to challenging experiences, such as death or suffering. It is a way of coping with challenges and recognising success and happiness, enabling a child to flourish, and truly reflects the Church of England's vision for education, 'to live life in all its fullness'

It is our aim that the children's individual spiritual development is fostered as an integral element 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 Hackleton CEVA 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 positive human qualities.
- 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 attribute meaning to experiences.
- To enable the children to value the non-material dimension of life.
- To foster reflection and stillness.
- To foster a sense of meaning, purpose and direction in life.
- 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.

Organisation and Implementation

Spiritual development is an important element of a child's education and fundamental to all other areas of learning. Spirituality is not taught, but is an inherent, interwoven part of all aspects of school life and is nurtured and promoted as a natural element of the curriculum.

At Hackleton CEVA Primary School, we promote curiosity, enthusiasm, independence and resilience enabling children to:

- Question and have space and time for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- Make connections between aspects of their learning.
- Relate their learning to a wider frame of reference, e.g. asking why, how, where and what.

The following opportunities are an integral part of the school's practice, in order to facilitate the development of spirituality:

- To explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives.
- Where children already have religious beliefs, to support and develop these beliefs in ways which are personal and relevant to them as an integral part of the school's practice.
- 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 with discernment.
- To reflect and respond to issues in moments of quiet or inspired through music, art, text, film or artefacts.
- To explore and develop what animates themselves and others.
- 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 exchange 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 afford time for reflection.
- To work and live in harmony with others in the school and wider community.
- To have confidence to express ideas, views and opinions, even if others do not agree.

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

In Literacy:

- 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 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 Physical Education:

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

- 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.
- Formulae.

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, fear, etc.
- 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.

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.
- To participate in a wide range of events and activities, involving a range of outside agencies, coaches, etc.

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 and seen to be valued.
- Policies and ensuing practices are clearly seen to reflect the worth of individuals.

- 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 experience.
- 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.

Monitoring and Review

This policy was created in discussion with class teachers with the aim to carefully consider and identify all the different opportunities for spiritual development. We acknowledge that it cannot be specifically measured and continues throughout our lives.

Opportunities offered to children for spiritual development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways:

- Observing and listening to children;
- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings alongside the school's Christian vision and values ensuring that everyone has a clear understanding of spirituality;
- Sharing of classroom work and practice;
- Evidence from pupils' work, e.g. worship feedback, RE books, creative writing, art;