

BISHOP WOOD C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY



Rationale

Schools are required to develop pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spirituality is about wholeness. It is developed through:

- ✚ Love and affection – the need for unconditional acceptance
- ✚ Security – the need for a sense of immediate and ultimate security- being safe and at peace with the world
- ✚ New experiences – external: play and exploration, internal: opportunities for stillness, reflection, awe and wonder, the need to take part in and contribute and so experience a sense of community.
- ✚ Praise and recognition – the need for affirmation, encouragement for positive behaviour
- ✚ Participation and responsibility- the need to take part in and contribute and so experience a sense of community

Spiritual development is relevant to the whole curriculum and is not an extra activity but an awareness of the aim to enable children to become whole persons. Spiritual development is an important aspect of Bishop Wood C of E Junior School, relating to our aims and ethos underpinning all activities and relationships.

Purpose

The purpose of spiritual development at Bishop Wood C of E Junior School is to recognise that:

- ✚ Each individual is created by God as a spiritual being
- ✚ Each individual is at a different point on their spiritual journey
- ✚ Each individual has a need to have their spirituality celebrated and developed

Aims

The aims of spiritual development are:

- ✚ To develop the skill of concentrating on the present moment
- ✚ To promote awareness of and enjoyment in using imaginative potential
- ✚ To encourage quiet reflection during lessons and in collective worship
- ✚ To develop self confidence in expressing inner thoughts
- ✚ To develop an inner calm
- ✚ To take opportunities to recognise beauty, truth and goodness
- ✚ To emphasise and appreciate loving relationships
- ✚ To develop the confidence to try new activities and reflect upon them
- ✚ To appreciate when moments of wonder and reverence present themselves.

All areas of the curriculum and collective worship should contribute to spiritual development. Religious Education has a special role to play in this process.

Development

We develop spiritually through:

- ✚ Addressing the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences and how religious teaching relates to them.
- ✚ Responding to such questions in the light of their own experiences and how religious teaching relates to them.

- ✚ Giving special opportunities for reflecting on the important issues of faith and life.

Spiritual development is not limited to RE and Collective Worship. There needs to be an awareness of spiritual development in the whole curriculum. Subject Leaders should be aware of the contribution each subject can make, for example:

Art	Helping pupils to appreciate the wonder of the world around them and how it can be recreated imaginatively
Collective Worship	Having times of reflection, celebration and praise
English	Ideas of beauty, moods and feelings found in all kinds of writing, considering right and wrong and human achievement, recognising the way in which poets and writers explore and give deeper vision of the world around them, exploring texts relating to social, moral and cultural issues
History	Learning from the past about human experiences
Geography	Becoming aware of the family of mankind, learning about the values of other cultures, dependence on others, responsibility towards others, the whole question of environmental issues and the way we care for the world
Music	Experiencing thought provoking sounds from around the world
Science	Appreciating the wonders of creation
PE	Understanding the link between physical health and spiritual well-being, the values of fairness, loyalty and teamwork
Maths	Appreciating the pattern of creation, fun in solving problems, awe and wonder of numbers, discovering new concepts the excitement of discovering new concepts and how problems can be solved
DT	Appreciation and understanding of design, impact of technology on life
ICT	Understanding the relationships between computers and humans, the pros and cons of technology
RE	Increasing awareness of fundamental questions about life, responding to these questions from personal experience and from what they know about the teaching of different faiths, reflecting their own and others' beliefs and values
PSHE&C	Managing feelings, increasing self awareness, empathising and learning to relate positively to others
Drama	Working cooperatively, developing confidence and the delight in achieving success

Physical Environment

All members of our community are encouraged to care for our environment as a sign of Christian care for creation and for one another. All classrooms have a focal point for prayer. Our uniform incorporates the crest of St Alban, which is a continual reminder of Christ's presence in our school community.

Organisation and Management

All teachers take responsibility for including aspects of spirituality in their teaching and subject leaders can monitor this as part of their evaluation procedures. Visits and visitors can play an important part, particularly places of worship and natural beauty, art galleries and places of scientific interest.

Expectations at the End of Key Stage 2

Children should be able to:

- ✚ Show care and consideration in listening and talking about the beliefs of others
- ✚ Discuss matters of personal concern arising from personal beliefs and commitments
- ✚ Explore questions about the meaning and mystery of life
- ✚ Develop an understanding of what it means to belong to a community
- ✚ Discuss the differences between right and wrong and the nature of individual responsibility
- ✚ Express thoughts and ideas about the creative arts
- ✚ Discuss feelings and emotions
- ✚ Explore times of stillness and reflection
- ✚ Develop ideas of fairness and justice.