"Choose the Right Path"

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School

Spirituality Policy

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At St James' Church of England Infant and Nursery School, we strive to be a happy, welcoming school family where everyone feels safe and is encouraged to develop their full potential within a Christian atmosphere.

We endeavour to support our children by:

- Using Christian teachings to give guidance in our daily lives.
- Developing a good understanding of how to live a healthy lifestyle.
- Ensuring they feel safe and secure.
- Providing an enriched learning environment where children can achieve, enjoy and succeed.
- Ensuring each child has a good understanding of their rights and responsibilities within school and the wider community.
- Providing children with the necessary skills and qualities to achieve future well-being and fulfillment in all aspects of life.

'Teach children to choose the right path, and when they are older they will remain upon it'. Proverbs 22:6

GENERAL STATEMENT AND STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

At St James' CofE Infant and Nursery School we endeavour to develop each child to their fullest potential, spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically.

"Spirituality is a thread that runs through our life, bringing hope, compassion, thankfulness, courage, peace and a sense of purpose and meaning to the everyday purpose of existence, while reaching beyond the immediate world of the visible and tangible. It drives us to seek and stay true to values not ruled by material success" (Values and Visions – MDEP Ltd/ Christian Aid 1995)

Spiritual Development enables our pupils to gain awareness about their inner self and encourages questions about the purpose of our being and the world. Spirituality is our insight into the real meaning of life.

It is important that our pupils understand that every human being and living thing has value and meaning and we are a part of something greater than what we can see or fully understand.

We feel that it is important to draw upon our shared Christian values, to accept and learn from our differences and to have an understanding of our interdependence with all people.
Our school is a place where all people are respected and treated equally.

AIMS

We seek to develop :

- belief.
- a sense of awe and wonder.
- a search for meaning and purpose.
- self knowledge.
- relationships.
- creativity.
- Feelings, sensitivity and emotions.

All these areas can be developed through all aspects of the curriculum as spirituality is an intrinsic part of school life.

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Religious Education
Encourages an understanding and respect for those who hold different beliefs from their own. It gives children the opportunity to develop their own beliefs and values and allows them to respond to stories, artefacts and places of worship.

Collective Worship
Provides the opportunity to experience times of mental and physical stillness and the chance to regularly experience a time when they can be receptive to their inner world of thoughts, feelings and imaginings and to reflect upon them. Our children also consider the value of prayer and worship and experience a sense of community.

PSHE
Children begin to give expression to personal thoughts, views, beliefs and feelings and they understand different ways in which humans express their ideas, hopes and fears.

English
Children experience a sense of awe and wonder at the beauty of language and are provided with arrange of texts that provoke emotion and inspire.

Computing
Provides the opportunity to reflect upon the way technology can isolate or bring people together. Children experience awe at the potential of technology and the wonder of achievement when a high quality presentation has been produced, or achievements they have made.

Maths
Children reflect upon pattern, shape, sign and symbol and gives them the opportunity to consider the concept of infinity in patterns and numbers.

Science
Children experience the joy of discovery, develop enquiring minds and reflect and wonder at the variety of life. They will consider the facts of life, growth, decay and death and how different organisms are dependent upon each other.

Art
Children are provided with opportunities to appreciate the way that the spirit of an artist is given expression through their art. For example, many paintings create or reflect moods. Children experience visual images that evoke a range of emotions and can explore and reflect their own feelings by experiencing a variety of materials for expression.

Design and Technology
Children appreciate the human drive to create, innovate and advance in technological achievements. They raise questions about the effects of these changes and design and produce aesthetically pleasing items.

History

Children ask why things happened and develop a sensitivity to the views, opinions and actions of others. They handle artefacts from the past and learn about inspirational figures. They develop an empathy with the past.

Geography
Children reflect upon the differences and similarities between people in near or distant parts of the world and reflect upon the power and implications of the workings of nature e.g. hurricanes, earthquakes etc. They consider the moral and practical issues of pollution and conservation and experience awe at the best achievements of a built environment.

Music
Provides ways in which pupils can appreciate through listening, performing and composing, the capacity of different types of music to move the spirit in different ways. They experience the physical and emotional sensations that music is capable of evoking and appreciate the way in which a person's spirit can be expressed through writing and performing music.

P.E.
Children learn to co-operate with others and develop a sense of team spirit. They reflect upon questions relating to cheating and fair play and learn to respect and abide by the rules of play. They learn about their own strengths and limitations and experience the pleasure and exhilaration of mastering a skill.

Residentials
Provide a unique opportunity for children to have first-hand experience with awe and wonder of the natural world. Children develop koinonia, through team work activities, developing trust and respect for each other.

Taking part in the School Council and holding positions of responsibility around school such as St James' Shepherds, Monitors, etc , our children can experience working with other members of the community and making their community a better place to live.

APPROACH

- All staff are expected to provide pastoral care. Close links with the Church at local and diocesan levels help children to develop an understanding of the Christian faith.
- The essence of spirituality is seen as that of eternal unanswered questions where children are encouraged to ask questions that are important to them and to have time to think and reflect.
- Spiritual Development will be promoted by offering on the one hand opportunities for reflection and renewal to encourage a sense of inner peace, while at the same time offering challenges through which a child may come to greater self awareness, self esteem and grow in confidence to express their inner thoughts.
- Children will be encouraged to meet challenges and see them as opportunities for personal development.
- They are expected to take responsibility both in their own class with others and to volunteer to help.
- They are encouraged to participate readily in activities such as collective worship, concerts and sports and to promote a sense of belonging that contribute to the life and unity of the school. It is felt that force has no place in spirituality.

Reflection areas

In the main entrance and in each classroom, we have an area for children and staff for reflection. The focus for this area outside the headteacher's office will change each half term to complement the Christian value focus for that half term. Each class will also have a portable Christian Value activity basket linked to our bible story.
These areas offer children a quiet space where they may go to think about their own feelings, relationships and their ability to make a difference in their communities. It also provides an opportunity to reflect and search for meaning in life and a sense of wonder at God's world.