



***Dream, Believe, Achieve***

***We are a school, rooted and inspired by Christian values, which nurtures children to achieve infinitely more than we might ask or they may dream; empowering them so they can flourish as confident citizens now and in the future.***

*- Ephesians 3:20 "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think."*

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP and SPIRITUALITY POLICY**

### **Policy Consultation & Review**

This policy is available through our website and paper copies can be obtained from the school office. When children join this school parents and carers are provided with a list of all available policies and documents, including this one. This policy will be reviewed in full by the Governing Body every two years.

**Approved by:** FGB

**Last reviewed on:** February 2022

**Next review due by:** February 2024

### **Rationale**

The School's Vision and Aims statement inform the policy and practice of collective worship at St Michael's Church of England, VA, Primary and Nursery School. School worship is an affirmation and celebration of the Anglican foundation values and ethos of the school.

Worship is central to the life and purposes of our school and reflects the Christian understanding of God as Trinity. This will include belief in God the source of all being and life, belief in Jesus who reveals God's love by his life, death and resurrection and belief in the Holy Spirit who makes the presence of Jesus known in the world.

### **Aims**

Through collective worship in our school we aim to:

- To help children discover their place in the world.
- To provide an opportunity for the children to reflect upon God and to give Him honour
- To highlight and nurture the spiritual dimension through experiencing worship.
- To provide children with a vocabulary of worship and an experience of a wide variety of worship forms, including symbols and imagery.
- To provide an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals.
- To heighten awareness of the ultimate questions / realities of life and to provide the opportunity to reflect upon these. To support the search for meaning.



- To enable children to appreciate their worth and value to God, and to the community, and to respect each individual as a child of God
- To enable pupils to make effective use of silence in opportunities for reflection, contemplation, meditation and prayer.
- To celebrate gifts, talents and achievements.
- To establish, explore, and reinforce the common Christian values of the school community such as love, peace, kindness, compassion.
- To foster a feeling of community and belonging in the school through a sharing of experiences and feelings.
- To develop personal relationships and to encourage social development.
- To provide an opportunity to empathise with the needs of others.
- To provide an opportunity for children to become acquainted with people from the local and wider community, particularly the local church.
- To learn about and have respect for other religions and the views of others, joining in with and appreciating worldwide festivals and celebrations.
- To encourage respect and care for God's creation by a positive attitude to both local and global environmental issues.
- To foster feelings such as awe, wonder, thankfulness, mystery and joy.
- To give memorable and enjoyable experiences.
- To provide an opportunity to bring personal needs and those of others before God in prayer.
- To share with participants some of the central teachings of the Christian faith at an appropriate level and thereby give them the encouragement to explore their own beliefs and understanding of God within a Christian framework.

### **Legal Framework**

There must be a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which takes account of their age and aptitude (Education Reform Act 1988). Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship and suitable arrangements should be made to accommodate these children. Since this is a Church school however, Christian worship is central to its life and work and is regarded as a very important part of children's education.

### **Organisation**

At the time of writing this policy, CW is still taking place via video link and children join in in the classroom. Children help with collective worship by supporting whoever is delivering CW in the Heads office or class base.

- All children in the main school attend collective worship every day either as a whole school, class or smaller group.
- Children are only withdrawn if parents request it.
- Staff attend as often as they can, and at least once a week, so that they can extend the learning and discussion into class time and relate it to their planning and delivery of RE and the wider curriculum.



- Collective worship (CW) usually takes place at 2.40 pm for 15 minutes. Celebration CW on a Friday is at 11.40 am. On a Thursday CW is in Classes focussing on the theme of the week. This is a time for children to focus on the theme in smaller groups.
- In their first term reception, children are gradually introduced to CW and are expected to be attending regularly by Harvest time. On occasions when, for example, people from other churches and faiths are invited to lead, the time may be moved to accommodate them.
- On special occasions such as Carol services, class assemblies, Mothering Sunday Service and Harvest Festival times and venues may also change.
- Each class leaves the school premises and attends a Church service each term at Aylsham Parish Church, when covid restrictions allow and it is suitable to do so.
- Visitors from other denominations and from special interest groups are welcomed as often as possible and are always asked to relate their sessions to the theme of the half term. Time for reflection and prayer are always included.
- The school is resourced with reference materials and Christian artefacts and staff are re-introduced to them at least once a year and more frequently when changes require it. The core text used is *Roots and Fruits*, this is supplemented with web-based resources, PSHE materials and a wealth of story books.
- The headteacher plans the over-arching structure of CW using Simply Collective Worship.
- Collective Worship relates closely to the Church's year and takes account of its festivals. A wide variety of approaches is used including Bible and other storytelling, drama, music, video, pictures, puppets and singing.
- Children are involved as actively as possible and are taught to listen, contribute and show respect for everyone's ideas and comments.

## Spirituality in School

### Our vision

Our vision influences the ethos of our school and the policies and practices within it. We believe that spirituality is a core thread that runs through our school and we attach great importance to it for both children's development and for the growth and well-being of all within our school community.

### We aim for children, and adults, to grow in their ability to:

- be guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand to defend them
- be self-aware and empathise with the experience of others in the school and wider community



- love themselves, care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve, and find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges
- exercise imagination and creativity, appreciate beauty in the world and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder
- be intrigued by mystery and be open to an awareness of the transcendent in the whole of life
- be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection/meditation/prayer
- be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves and to forgive others
- be willing to take risks and to reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success
- demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions
- appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life like friends and family, and show generosity towards others

### **Our working definition of 'spirituality'**

As a staff and governor team, we have agreed on a definition of spiritual development in our school community to support us as we talk about spirituality.

Spiritual development is not about becoming, more spiritual (in a measurable or expansive sense). It is about realising or becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. This is sometimes a slow and gradual process, at other times there might be significant stages of realisation, which are part of the ongoing 'developing' process. Unlike the development of a photograph, people don't reach a finished state of spiritual development, but participate in the ongoing process of spiritual realisation. If spirituality were something which developed or grew in a quantifiable sense, then surely adults would be more spiritual than children. Many would argue that children seem to be far more spiritually aware than adults. Perhaps as a part of growing older, the pressures of life can distract or distort our interests so that as adults, our spiritual awareness is dulled and we do not 'realise it' to the full.

### **Legal requirements:**

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 states:

The curriculum for a maintained school or maintained nursery school satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which: (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and (b) prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The SIAMS Schedule (amended September 2021) references spirituality in both the RE and Collective Worship strands but the main focus is part of strand two on Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills. The Church of England Vision for Education has a core desire for 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) which requires educating the whole person.

The OFSTED framework 2021 states that pupil's spiritual development is shown by their:



- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faith, feelings, and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences

**We support pupils in their spiritual development by:**

- providing opportunities for spiritual development in collective worship
- providing opportunities for spiritual development in RE
- providing opportunities for spiritual development in the wider curriculum
- capturing opportunities for awe and wonder as they arise
- offering pupils opportunities to develop their own spiritual leadership, through leading collective worship and other opportunities

**As a staff team:**

- We have a staff understanding of spiritual development. (Spiritual Development Interpretations of spiritual development in the classrooms – October 2019)
- We have a culture within our school that recognises the importance of spirituality to individuals, both children and staff.
- Our governors will monitor the impact of our spirituality focus. This will be conducted through conversations with children, staff and learning walks.
- We have staff guidance accessible to continue to support staff in this aspect of our curriculum. We ensure new staff are aware of our school policy on spiritual development.
- We are developing a variety of spiritual spaces both inside and outside the school building.
- We are aware of spiritual development shown across four key areas of Self, Others, Beauty and Beyond (Andrew Rickett / Rebecca Nye).
- We recognise that children will have different 'Spiritual Temperaments' or 'Sacred Pathways, through the work of Gary Thomas (2010) and Myra Perrine (2007). This will influence our planning as we look to nurture spirituality across the curriculum, not just in RE and Collective Worship. Our Staff Meetings will have a focus on these texts in the Spring and Summer Terms of 2022
- We aim to help each pupil to develop a spiritual understanding in terms of their own cultural context.
- We share with parents, whenever possible, the outcomes or our focus on Collective Worship and Spiritual Development through the Headteacher's Blog and our website.
- We discuss spirituality with our church and others who can further support this thread.

Our awareness and understanding of spiritual development will enrich what we offer to the children and to all in our school community.

**Other related policies:**

Collective Worship  
Curriculum Policy



Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policy  
SMSC

**Referenced reading:**

Church of England Education Office (CEEO) Spiritual Development –  
Interpretations of Spiritual Development in the Classroom (2019)

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-children/school-effectiveness/re-collective-worship-and-spirituality/spiritual-development/>

**Monitoring and evaluation**

The headteacher is the co-ordinator for Collective Worship and for RE. He seeks regular (at least annual) feedback from staff, children and parents.