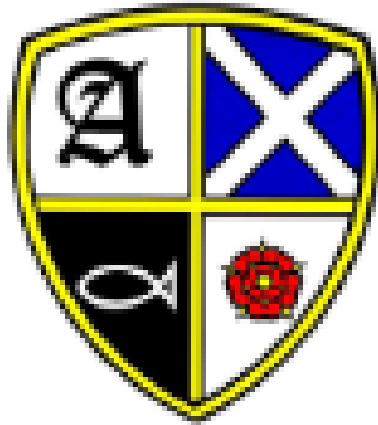# Spirituality
Policy Handbook
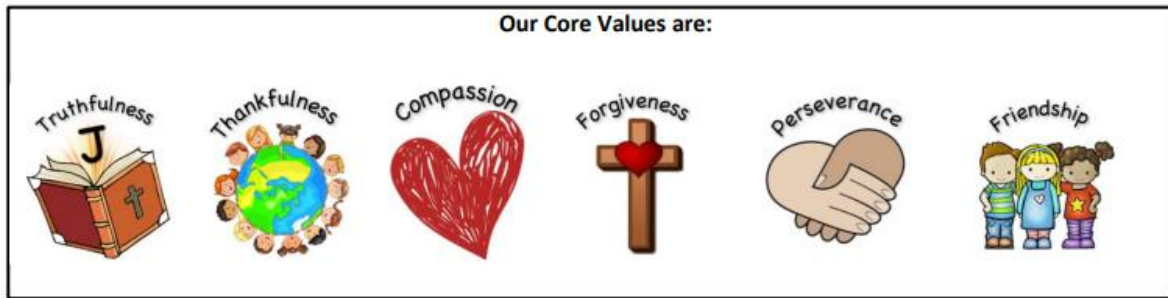
St. Andrew's CE Infant School

Our School Motto

'Learning, Caring and Growing together in Faith'

Our Vision

St Andrew's Infant School is a Christian school where children are happy, nurtured and love learning. Through an inspiring and aspirational curriculum, we strive to ensure our children flourish spiritually, academically, and creatively to become confident, resilient learners. Everyone here learns, cares and grows together in faith.

Our Values

Our Christian Narrative:

'God is my strength in whom I trust.' **Psalm 18**

Our Bible story:

The parable of the two builders - **Matthew 7**

irituality

Intent

All spiritual development, at St. Andrew's CE Infant School, takes place within the context of the Christian faith. As a church school, we offer opportunities for all our school community to develop a relationship with God. Our environment allows everyone to feel accepted, to question and to explore. In order to nurture the spiritual development of children space, time, emotional security, and a sense of safety and trust is needed.

Spirituality does not fit neatly into RE lessons or Collective Worship nor should it be limited to "the odd special moment" Rebecca Nye. All staff are expected to, and are capable of, planning for developing children's spirituality and ensuring that as opportunities do arrive, they are used to help children develop.

What is Spirituality?

At St. Andrew's CE Infant School, we believe that we can develop our spirituality by taking time to reflect, show appreciation and be in the moment. Spirituality is a thread throughout our curriculum, including magical moments of awe and wonder. It is something that teaches us about questioning, understanding and relationships: relationships with ourselves, others, the world and beyond. Spirituality nourishes both ourselves and those around us, helping us to feel content, calm and clear headed.

The Church of England's Vision for Education states a core desire that children will experience life in all its fullness (John 10:10). At St. Andrew's we believe that exploring spirituality by educating the whole child and providing full life experiences meets this desire. Spirituality is a reflective journey and includes appreciating the beauty of the world around us. It enables our children to be happy; flourish and succeed and live life in all its fullness.

We have planned opportunities throughout the curriculum to develop spirituality amongst our children. For example, children use their senses and take time to reflect and appreciate our world when we visit Worden Park. Activities such as breathing exercises, reflection and discussion time are also built into our curriculum as well as varied opportunities for children to question and wonder.

As well as these planned opportunities, we recognise the importance of spontaneous moments that cannot always be planned for. We celebrate and record these throughout the year.

Christian Value	How this is lived out?

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Truthfulness	As children develop their spirituality, they learn the importance of telling the truth. Jesus said 'Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice' (John 18:37). We think about what Jesus would do.
Thankfulness	As the children journey through spirituality with thankfulness in their hearts, they will have a quality of life that is about appreciating and cherishing what is good, joyful, truthful and beautiful.
Compassion	As we develop our spirituality, it is important to show compassion to both ourselves and others.
Forgiveness	The children learn how important forgiveness is. Taking time to reflect helps us to think about this, and allows us to work as a school team.
Perseverance	Developing spiritually is a journey where we become more aware. This is a developing process and there may be times when big questions make us wonder about our own ideas or beliefs. Throughout this process, perseverance is required.
Friendship	Establishing strong relationships amongst staff, children, families and the whole community will ensure that we have an environment for all to develop spiritually in their own way.

What does Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development look like?

Spiritual: the growth of the spirit, understanding strengths and weaknesses, self-respect, creativity, the will to achieve one's own potential and the ability to ask and try to find out answers to life's major questions in order to foster non-material well-being throughout life.

Moral: the development of understanding of the difference between right and wrong, understanding of moral dilemmas, the will to do that which is right, a willingness to consider others with concern and the ability to cope with moral conflict.

Social: the development of understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of families and various communities (local, national and international) and the ability to relate to and work with others for the common good.

Cultural: the development of understanding of how people of different cultures think, feel, create, behave and live. Its aim is to develop pupils' sense of belonging within, value for and engagement with local, regional and national cultures.

Provision for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Spiritual

Children are given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of spiritual experiences. Examples of experiences commonly regarded as spiritual include:

• Curiosity and questions

• Awe and wonder

• Connection and belonging

• Prayer and worship

• A sense of security, well-being, worth and purposefulness

Our school supports children's spiritual development by:

• Giving children the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they affect peoples' lives.

• Giving children the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions.

• Developing a climate or ethos within which all children can grow and flourish, enjoying individual liberty and mutual respect.

• Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals, including those who have different faiths and beliefs.

• Planning for and promoting learning opportunities, which value children's questions, encourage deeper thinking and give space for individual thoughts, ideas and concerns.

• Planning for opportunities to develop children's spirituality across the curriculum.

Moral

Children are encouraged to understand the need for a common code based on treating others as they would wish to be treated and the school's Core Christian values of truthfulness, thankfulness, compassion, forgiveness, perseverance and friendship.

Our school supports children's moral development by:

• Providing clear school expectations (be kind, be honest, do your best) as a basis for behaviour which is promoted consistently throughout school.

• Promoting equity

• Giving pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values –for example, personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice and the importance of equity.

• Developing an open and safe learning environment in which pupils can express their views.

• Rewarding good behaviour.

• Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions, for example, respect for property, care of the environment, and expectations of behaviour.

Social

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, and school, the local and wider community and make a positive contribution to the lives of others in society.

Our school develops pupil social development by:

• Fostering a sense of community, with common, inclusive values.

• Promoting equity

• Encouraging pupils to work co-operatively.

• Encouraging pupils to recognise and respect social differences and similarities.

• Helping pupils develop personal qualities, which are valued in a civilised society, for example, thoughtfulness, honesty, and respect for difference, moral principles, independence, interdependence, self-respect and awareness of others' needs.

• Providing opportunities for pupils to exercise leadership and responsibility.

Cultural

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and respect regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

Our school develops cultural development by:

• Extending pupils' knowledge and use of cultural imagery and language.

• Encouraging them to think about special events in life and how they are celebrated.

• Recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents; providing opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, drama, music, art, crafts and other cultural events and encouraging pupils to reflect on their significance.

• Reinforcing the school's cultural links through displays, posters, exhibitions, etc.

• Developing partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend pupils' cultural awareness, for example museum visits.

	Questions to develop spirituality across the curriculum		
	Reception	**Year 1**	**Year 2**
Autumn	Who makes you go wooooooow? Do trees talk to each other? What makes me me and you you? Who is God? Do you need friends and are they important?	Is life more real outside? Can you touch the wind? Is a gift always something that you can hold? Who made words? Can we ever really forgive and forget?	Should we thank our parents for being who we are? Is it everyone's responsibility to look after the environment? If I switch the light off is the wall a different colour? What could you do to make a difference? (like Mary Jones) What makes a good friend?
Spring	Why do I like some food and not others? Why do I cry when I'm happy? Why do I have a bath in water not baked beans? What's the point in reading? Why do humans talk and not roar?	What is nothing made out of? Where do we go when we die? How are you healthy? Why do we have numbers? Can anything be a toy?	Should we visit different planets? Can we have happiness without sadness? Should foods high in sugar and fats be banned? If you could spend a day with Jesus, what would you do? Is the internet better than a library?
Summer	Who do you love and what are you going to do about it? Is it better to be cold or hungry? Why do I have to grow old? What are you afraid of? What is your 1 wish for the world?	Do animals have feelings? All animals? All feelings? Does a dog know it is a dog? Do computers think? Are heroes ever scared? What is more important being right or being nice?	What life lesson did you learn the hard way? Would you prefer to live in Leyland or Mugurameno? Is change a good thing? Where is the best place to worship God? What makes a good piece of art?