

Spiritual,

Moral,



Social &



Cultural

development

**at St John's Upper Holloway
CE Primary School**

Enhancing Children's Spiritual Development at St John's

The spiritual development of pupils is shown by their:

1. ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
2. sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
3. use of imagination and creativity in their learning
4. willingness to reflect on their experiences.

At St

John's Upper Holloway, we describe **spirituality** as ...

'an appreciation and cherishing of what is good, joyful, truthful and beautiful, and, in relationship with others, of what is generous, creative and loving. The spirit of a person is seen in acts of courage and perseverance, in dealing with both setbacks and praise, in endeavour and enquiry'.

This definition is closely linked to our core Christian values of love, creativity, thankfulness, truthfulness, friendship, perseverance and courage.

Our children are encouraged to think deeply and reflect on their own religious beliefs as well as those of other faiths. Our hall displays reflect the importance we place upon RE within our curriculum.



We encourage children to learn both from and about a range of world religions and involve parents as fully as possible. We also take children to places of worship from a range of faiths in order to help them gain a deeper understanding of these religions.



Our school vision and core values encourage children to think deeply about their own views as well as those around them. Our whole school vision day provided creative opportunities for our pupils to think what love, thankfulness, creativity, perseverance, friendship, courage and truthfulness mean to them.



Our children are given time to pray when they want to talk with god or simply want to say thank you. The infant and junior nativities also allow children to reflect upon moments of awe and wonder. Our whole school prayer days provide an opportunity for children to reflect on the power of prayer based on a theme such as nativity or Easter.



We also consider the feelings and challenges faced by others, both locally and around the world and each term focus on a charity or fundraising event that will both raise money but also increase awareness amongst our pupils. Our focus charities are Macmillan (supporting those with cancer nationally), CARIS (helping the homeless through local night shelters) and World Vision (supporting children worldwide in order that they may have an education).



Children are encouraged to stop and reflect on the wonder of the world around them, whether it's the birth of a baby chick or the growth of a vegetable garden from a few seeds.



Our curriculum is creative and provides opportunities for children to use their imagination in their learning.



Children are given opportunities to reflect on their experiences in a wide range of different ways; from evaluating their own learning to reflecting on their own and others' beliefs and values. During our whole school projects they often reflect on large and complex questions e.g. considering if it is right to go to war as part of our WWI project. Our school council also encourage children in their class to think about how we can improve our school further.



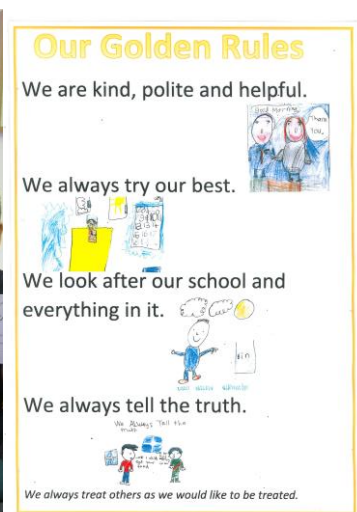
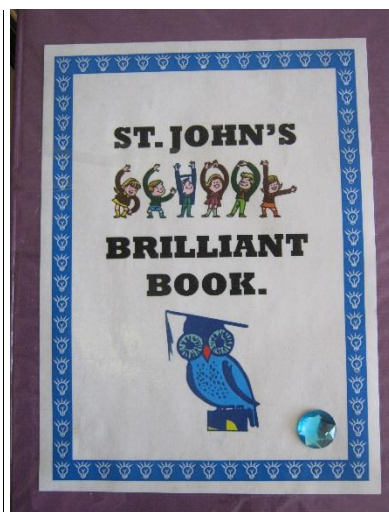
Enhancing children's moral development at St John's

1. The moral development of pupils is shown by their:

1. ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
2. understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
3. interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

At St John's, our children are given clear guidance on the difference between right and wrong in a wide variety of ways. Our Golden Rules set out clearly how children are expected to behave and focus on a positive approach to behaviour. The overarching premise is that we should treat others as we would like to be treated. Classes also set their own class rules. Children are encouraged to reflect on their own behaviour at playtimes and our Year 6 play leaders help mediate disputes while also leading games and activities. Our behaviour policy clearly sets out how we manage children's behaviour and tackle any inappropriate behaviour in a consistent way. Children are given "time out" to reflect on what they have done wrong and to consider how they can resolve the situation.

Excellent behaviour and attitude is rewarded through a merit system and children are also sent to the Head or Deputy Head to have this behaviour acknowledged in the "Brilliant Book". This is celebrated in our weekly achievement assembly with pupils, staff and parents.



Each year we have a whole school friendship week in which children and staff have a secret friend who they plan small acts of kindness for. Consideration for others, including those who you may not know particularly well, is at the heart of this project.

Children are introduced to democracy through school council with each class voting for two representatives. They consult on class views and bring these to regular meetings which are led by a year 6 chair and clerk. Much of their work is linked to our charity projects such as our 'Caris sleep out' or Macmillan coffee morning which consider the inequalities and challenges faced by others.



Children are also taught about democracy through PSHCE and link this to trips and visits wherever possible. The rule of law is also explored through PSHCE and our children visit the Royal Courts of Justice to find out about how the laws of the country are translated into court cases. They even have an opportunity to play the role of jurors on famous historic cases. As part of Enterprise week we have also invited in barristers and solicitors to talk about their work.



Moral and ethical issues are explored widely through assemblies, literacy, history and a wide range of other subjects and activities. Giving children time to consider an issue from both sides is an important part of their education and could include a moral dilemma in a text or topic e.g. the story of Jacob and Easu in RE or considering the impact of deforestation on the rainforests as part of the rainforest topic. Whole school events such as our World War I project also enable us to explore moral issues in greater depth and across all age groups.

Enhancing children's social development at St John's

The social development of pupils is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

We believe that children need to have opportunities to develop their social skills in a range of different contexts. They achieve this through working cooperatively with a wide range of people - some familiar to them and some unfamiliar, some within the school community and some beyond. Staff and parents recognise they all have a crucial role to play in ensuring they model appropriate behaviours and attitudes at all times.

The range of opportunities for working and socialising with others is extensive, but some of the examples include collaborative whole school projects, sports day, breakfast club and after school clubs, school fairs and charity fundraising events. Our Golden rules help to ensure the children have a clear framework for how they treat others with respect and tolerance.



Beyond the school gates, children have opportunities to explore and be part of their local community- whether this is setting up a stall to sell their vegetables at Waitrose as part of our Enterprise week or singing and talking with residents at the local old people's home. We are incredibly proud of our children's behaviour and attitudes when they are out of school and frequent feedback from members of the public highlights the wonderful role models they are.



Children are given a range of responsibilities as they go through the school and these develop from classroom monitors to ensure all resources are stored and tidy, to library monitors and sports leaders in upper Key Stage 2. Our older children also support the younger children during lunchtimes, helping them select their food and displaying good manners at their tables.

Pupils are encouraged to explore the faith and beliefs of people from a range of different cultures and religions through visitors and trips as part of RE as well as topics linked to geography and PSHE. Joint events with other schools in the borough such as sporting or music events also provide opportunities to share experiences and develop social skills.



We believe that having a set of shared values is at the heart of our school vision.

As a church school, **Christian values** are reflected in nearly everything we do and influence how we treat each other. These values are not exclusively Christian but when brought together help to make our school the church school that it is.

The values which our schools endorse are those of:

- Thankfulness, courage, perseverance, friendship, creativity and truthfulness

-

Each half term we focus on a particular value through our assemblies and worship to help children explore what they represent and what they mean to them.

These support and link to the important fundamental **British Values** of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

At St John's, these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council and regular questionnaires. The elections of the School Council members are based solely on pupil votes, reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action. Democracy is also an element of our PSHE curriculum and during KS2 children have opportunities to explore democracy through the local and national political systems.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school has 'Golden Rules', which are deeply embedded in our work every day.

Each class also discusses and sets its own rules that are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. In KS2 children also have the opportunity to visit the Royal Courts of Justice to gain a deeper understanding of the legal system and its history.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and P.S.H.E. lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge; of how they record; of participation in our numerous extra- curricular activities; our pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

The pupils understand that respect is essential in order that we exist in harmony with each other. It is expected that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. The core value of Respect at St John's underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom and is also reflected in our Golden Rules.

Tolerance of Those With Different Faiths And Beliefs

Our core value of Respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. St John's enhances pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies including visits to a range of places of worship and inviting pupils and parents in to class to talk about their own faith. Through this our pupils gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.

Enhancing Children's Cultural Development at St John's

The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:

1. understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
2. understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
3. knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
4. willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
5. interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Our school has a rich cultural diversity and we seek to provide opportunities for our pupils to explore and celebrate both their own cultural identity and that of those around them. This is achieved through a range of whole school projects as well as being embedded within our curriculum.

One example of our whole school projects include our School Carnival with themes such as “Hopes and Dreams” and “Olympians of the future”. Children have been taught the history of Carnivals around the world, developed skills in drumming and singing and worked cooperatively with staff and parents to create amazing costumes and masks based on the themes. It’s a great opportunity to have a party!



Another project we undertook was called “Who we are” and it provided opportunities for children, parents and staff to find out more about their own family history and create wonderful family story trees which were shared with each other. It was also a chance to celebrate our diversity through food.

At St John’s, the children learn Spanish in KS2 and we recently organised a day of flamenco to help all our children enjoy some creative aspects of Spanish culture and dance.



Each year we celebrate Black History month through a wide range of activities that seek to educate children about the achievements and contributions that black men and women have made to our world. We utilise the knowledge and experiences of our own parents and members of the local community. We have also ensured that a wide range of diverse role models are embedded throughout our curriculum maps in order that pupils can appreciate the achievements and contributions of some amazing people, irrespective of colour, race, gender or sexuality.



Recently, we have developed a 'Gallery of Greatness' showcasing and celebrating the lives and achievements of a wide range of diverse role models. These are introduced by classes in assembly as well as displayed in the hall. Our whole school art week focused on some inspiring artists with disabilities to stimulate our children's art works and they shared these with parents at a 'pop up gallery'!



We also seek to give children an insight into the many traditions that are a part of our cultural history in the UK. This ranges from all children enjoying an annual pantomime to taking part in the Archway Christmas lights celebrations as well as exploring the significance of events in British history such as Remembrance Day.



We are incredibly fortunate to have so many opportunities to explore the wide range of musical, artistic and sporting opportunities on our doorstep here in London. Children experience a wide range of music through visits to concerts, such as those at the Barbican, as well as having musicians performing in school. All children receive weekly music lessons in class and many take advantage of the peripatetic music lessons on offer. They all have opportunities to perform to their parents and the rest of the school each term and

all children also perform in the infant nativity and KS2 Christmas concert. Our school choir were even recently asked to open the new Sainsburys!

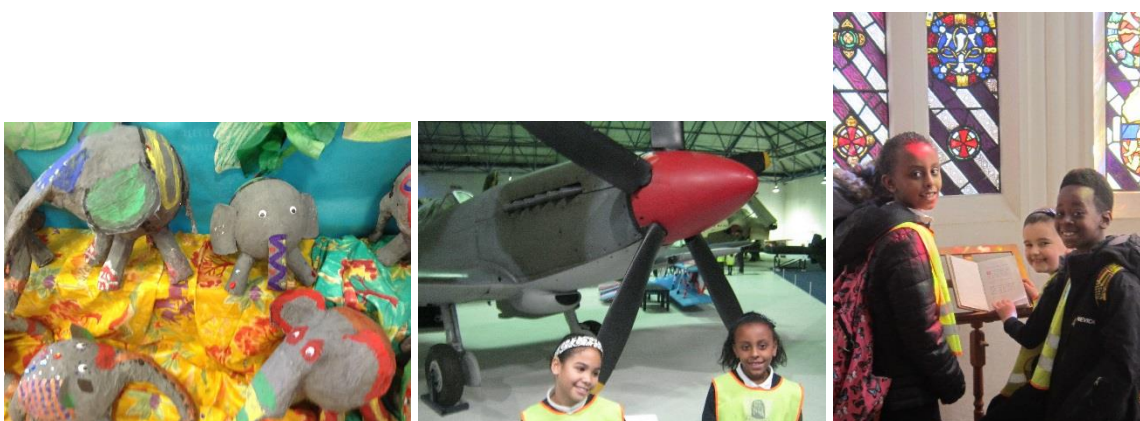


Good music makes you want to dance and our children have lots of opportunities for that too- from Lindy Hop in KS1 to African dance in KS2 and Samba for everyone as part of our Carnival projects!

We have used our Sports grant over the last two years to really extend the range of sports our children can take part in and appreciate. This includes everything from Tae-Kwondo to handball as well as the ever popular football. We have made the most of links with Arsenal football club who have supported our children's football club as well as offering academic support such as the reading challenge and Double club. They even sent their mascot to come and help launch our new playground space which was partly funded by the Arsenal Foundation.



We have an art club for our keen artists and they are currently working to create beautiful large canvases based on our Christian Values which will be displayed around the school. Our children have also recently undertaken a whole school 3D art project on the Jungle which was hugely popular. All our classes also make the most of visits to museums and galleries to help support their learning across the curriculum, whether that's the RAF Museum, The National Gallery or Hampton court palace.



As part of our focus on British values, children explore the concept of democracy from an early age. All classes from Reception upwards vote for two school council reps and these take part in regular council meetings, both sharing their peers thoughts and ideas and also feeding important information back to their class. They also lead on a range of events from Red Nose Day to working with the school cook to improve lunches. Democracy is an important aspect of PSHE&C and our children gain an insight into this through talks from local politicians and MPs, visits to the local council as well as visits to the Houses of Parliament.



Respect for different faiths and cultures is a core part of our school vision statement and we strongly believe that by providing children with opportunities to explore and learn from the faiths, cultures and beliefs of those in the school community and beyond, they will be prepared for life in the diverse and modern city in which we live.