

St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School



Spirituality Policy

Date: March 2022
Review: March 2024

Our Vision

Jesus said: 'Love each other as I have loved you'. John 15:12

As we are loved, so we shall love.

As we are taught, so we shall teach.

As we are nurtured, so we shall flourish.

Our Mission

St John's is a small, caring Church of England Primary School. It is committed to supporting our pupils to be happy, successful and fulfilled throughout their lives. We believe that everyone is unique and valued by God. We aspire to be a high achieving school that provides an outstanding education:

- ❖ promoting the highest standards of teaching and learning, with excellent leadership
- ❖ being inclusive, celebrating diversity and valuing all religions, faiths, cultures and backgrounds
- ❖ providing a rich and stimulating curriculum that will inspire and challenge
- ❖ being a happy, healthy and safe place
- ❖ providing excellent care, guidance and support with a strong partnership between school, parents and the community.

We seek to promote six Christian values of creativity, thankfulness, truthfulness, friendship, perseverance and courage, each linked by our core value of love. We believe these help to prepare our children for a successful and fulfilling life, so being:

- ❖ considerate and respectful with excellent manners
- ❖ confident, happy, independent and self-motivated
- ❖ co-operative and collaborative
- ❖ honest and trustworthy
- ❖ resilient, hardworking and determined
- ❖ highly principled with moral, spiritual, cultural and social awareness, including shared British Values.

Spirituality – a definition

At St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary school 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 aims for spirituality at St John's

We aim to provide the right learning environment and opportunities to enable the spiritual development of all pupils through the following objectives;

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God;
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;
- Enabling children to make the links between the Church and Biblical teachings, the life of the school and the wider community and how these impact on their own understanding of themselves and their place within the world today;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them;
- Develop an awareness of and respect for other people's beliefs and faiths and the ability to articulate their own;
- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);
- Develop strategies to build good mental health (see mental health policy);
- Foster self-awareness and encourage pupils to make informed decisions;
- Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life;
- Begin to understand and make sense of their own feelings and emotions around certain encounters and events that occur in their life;
- Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth;
- Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others;
- Encourage curiosity, creativity and imagination;
- Develop a capacity to value the natural world, a sense of awe and wonder and a commitment to care for creation;
- Allowing children the security and opportunity to explore and express feelings and emotions and to celebrate diversity;
- Providing opportunities for reflection and prayer including silence and stillness;
- Sharing feelings and experiences that foster hope, joy, reassurance and encouragement;
- Providing an environment that promotes space to reflect, think and wonder.

Providing an environment and opportunities for spiritual development

At St John's, we provide a wide range of ways in which children can develop spiritually. These include:

- Forest school, gardening, caring for pets: for a sense of awe at the natural world; to develop a sense of responsibility
- Music: for awareness of beauty, to appreciate what is good in life, to be self-aware and also recognise that we have a part to play as part of a community.
- PSHE and P4C: to ask big questions and challenge our assumptions; to be curious about our world and to recognise that we have responsibilities to ourselves and others; to be guided by our beliefs and values; to be self-aware and recognise the value in ourselves.
- Assemblies and collective worship, Prayer days, Vision days: to consider our relationship with God and to use periods of quiet reflection to question our behaviour or aspire to be better; to be aware of religious mystery and its capacity to entrance; to reflect on our school vision and values and consider how these help to shape us as individuals and as a school community
- PE: to enjoy collective endeavour; to take pleasure in our bodies and their capabilities.
- Literacy: to be able to express and communicate our thoughts and feelings; to listen to others and appreciate other points of view.
- Maths: to enjoy the clarity and patterns of nature; to recognise the pleasure we feel when we understand a concept and can apply it; to take risks in our learning; to be resilient and able to pick ourselves up again
- Art: to have the opportunity to experience beauty and creativity; to be imaginative.
- History and Geography: to consider how society changes and why; to see how societies are put together and how people can use or abuse the natural world, engendering a sense of responsibility.
- Science: to be curious and thoughtful; to respect truthfulness and test theories; to recognise strength and fragility in nature and natural processes
- Play time: to show generosity and selflessness; to be empathetic and aware of the needs of others; to recognise our mistakes and learn from them so that we grow.
- Safeguarding and mental health strategies including 'Back2Green', identification of their 'special adult' and use of circle time: to begin to make sense of their own feelings and emotions around events that happen in their lives; foster self-awareness and make informed decisions; develop strategies to build good mental health
- School council, class news time and show & tell: develop an appreciation of what it means to be part of a community; understand the importance of difference and diversity
- Class assemblies, music performances, achievement assemblies: to encourage curiosity, creativity and imagination; sharing feelings and experiences that foster hope, joy, reassurance and encouragement

Monitoring and evaluation

Spiritual development cannot be measured and continues throughout our lives. However, opportunities offered to children for spiritual development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways;

- ❖ Observing and listening to children;
- ❖ Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings alongside the school's Christian vision and values;
- ❖ Sharing of classroom work and practice;
- ❖ Ensuring that staff have a clear understanding of what spirituality means in this school by providing them with induction and development training;
- ❖ Evidence from pupils' work, e.g. reflective diary, RE books, SMSC work, creative writing, art;
- ❖ Regular inclusion in the SEF;
- ❖ CPD opportunities and sharing examples of good practice with other schools.

This policy was adopted by the staff and governors on _____ (date)
signed _____ (chair R&W committee)

The policy will be reviewed: March 2024