



Where God's gifts begin their journey to gain, attain and grow into lifelong learners

## Spirituality and Spiritual Development Policy

- a) Policy drawn up by the RE Coordinator and approved by Governors
- b) Date adopted: July 2016
- c) Reviewed: November 2016/January 2017
- d) Reviewed May 8 2018
- e) Next review due: July 2019

St Francis is a Church of England Voluntary Aided primary school. We hold the belief that all human beings are created in the image of God.

### **Our Vision and Aims**

“We believe that all children are a gift from God, that they are special and should be allowed to develop and grow in a nurturing environment, secure in the knowledge that they are cherished. It is our wish for all pupils that they leave St Francis with special memories and having achieved personal success, whilst being equipped to take their next steps in the journey of life.

We want to challenge all our children to reach their full potential spiritually, morally, socially and culturally and to develop relationships where all beliefs, differences and ways of life are respected; each child being recognised as a unique individual.

Our Christian beliefs and values inform everything we do and achieve at St Francis and we encourage our children, within an ethos of trust, to reflect on their own values and faith in a supportive environment.”

### **We seek to develop in each child:**

- a sense of self-worth stemming from the recognition that they are created in the image of God;
- an understanding of the source of Christian values, for example, The Bible and Christian tradition;
- a response to the distinctive ethos of a church school and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;
- the ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion and beauty etc;
- the ability to recognise that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth and development;
- the ability to discuss and reflect upon key questions of meaning and truth such as the origins of the universe, life after death, good and evil, the being of God;
- the ability to consider values such as justice, honesty, truth and responsibility for self and for the planet with which we have been entrusted;
- a sense of social responsibility demonstrated in practical ways, for example, supporting charities;
- a sense of being in relationship with others and a growing understanding of what it means to belong to a community.

### **We seek to provide a learning environment which:**

- will introduce children to elements of Anglican Christian worship and prayer as an integrated part of school life;
- will maintain a mutual involvement between St John's church and the school;
- will promote understanding of and respect for other world faiths;
- will encourage caring and respectful relationships;
- will provide a supportive environment where children can develop self-confidence, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility;
- enables children to explore, in age-appropriate ways, questions about meaning and purpose, for example about their identity, right and wrong, truth, suffering and relationships;
- endeavours to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development recognising the uniqueness of each pupil within a Christian context;
- will create a positive interaction between school and home, the church and the wider community.

### **Approaches**

At St Francis we seek to find ways in which all areas of the curriculum can contribute to children's spiritual development and to highlight opportunities for these in our planning. For example:

- team membership is encouraged within PE;
- empathy and imagination are developed through literacy;
- the concepts of infinity and nothing can be explored in numeracy;
- questions about birth, life and death can be raised in science;
- beauty and creativity can be explored through the creative arts.

We seek to foster spiritual capacities, e.g. imagination, insight and empathy.

We allow children the opportunity to explore and express feelings and emotions.

We provide opportunities for silence, stillness and prayer including in collective worship, circle times and class reflections. Music and song is also used as a way of encouraging reflection.

We use the Church of England Values for Life resource (Jumping Fish publications) to help children explore a range of Christian morals and beliefs.

We share feelings and experiences that foster hope and joy, reassurance and encouragement.

We encourage children to develop relationships based on the Christian values of love, forgiveness and service to others.

We seek to challenge children to reflect upon the significance of their learning.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

We monitor and evaluate opportunities for Spiritual Development in the following ways:

- monitoring of planning, teaching and learning by Senior Management Team, Governors and RE Co-ordinator;
- Governor observations of acts of collective worship;
- Foundation Governor discussion and monitoring of the role of RE, Collective Worship and ethos within the school;
- discussion at staff meetings and Governor meetings;
- evidence from pupil discussions;
- evaluation as part of its inclusion in the School Development Plan.

### **Materials**

Spiritual development. Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education 2012 A & S  
Rickett, D Holloway