**St Andrew's CE Junior School**

**Spirituality Policy**

**Our Vision**

*Through experiences rooted in Christian Values and through mutual respect, we guide children to develop Compassion, Responsibility and Resilience in a Caring environment*

**Policy Aim**

The aim of this policy is to outline how St Andrew's CE Junior School provides opportunities for children to develop their spirituality.

It is our role in school to inspire, create and recognise that spirituality exists in everyone. As Jesus said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit" and we want to ensure we support our children to be happy and rounded in all respects, including spirituality, which cannot be taught or measured.

**What is Spirituality**

Spirituality is not possible to teach. It is like the wind - it makes a difference but is uncontrollable for each person. It might change someone's understanding and beliefs but ultimately is an innate sense of awe and wonder. It is about understanding that there is something more than just 'me' and is integral to understanding our 'place' in the world. It is about developing a sense of self-awareness.

Promoting spirituality should not be confused with developing faith. Faith is a set of beliefs by which you live your life by and could be a response to a belief in God. Faith is something you choose whereas spirituality is an aspect of human development - it is not separate but integral to who we are and what makes us whole. Spirituality is for everybody regardless of faith.

**How does ST Andrew's CE Junior School promote spirituality?**

Our school aims to support children in making sense of themselves and the world around them. We aim to help them observe their own responses to different experiences. Our school believes that experiences, both in and out of school, are important to the development of all pupils.

We will create frameworks that help them to consider big, sometimes overwhelming, concepts such as life, death, identity, war, environmental factors etc. but without necessarily offering answers. These opportunities come through the teaching and learning of our whole school global awareness curriculum particularly our values, Collective Worship, RE, PSHE, RSE, Science, Art, Music and English.
Children will have exposure to spiritual experiences and conversations to know that it exists for everyone including adults.

Opportunities for spirituality development come when:

- children are given space to stop, look, listen, think and reflect
- children feel safe to share opinions and think differently from others
- children use their imagination

Children need:

- time to be listened to;
- adults that are respectful;
- space to explore, think and discuss;
- opportunities that encourage wonder and surprise;
- to know that there is not always a product or end result;
- to know there is another way.

Activities and opportunities will include:

- exposure and appreciation of nature;
- following traditions and special occasions;
- use of prayer or reflection time;
- time for silence and stillness;
- acts of service that benefit others;
- stories that promote thought and imagination (without the need to find a moral)

Evidence of spirituality may come through art, play, attitudes, movement and using the senses.

**Spirituality through Collective Worship**

Collective Worship can often develop spirituality in both nature and content.
Our school uses 'Reflection Time' towards the end of whole school collective worship. The following three elements form part of the understanding about the importance of moments of quiet reflection.

- Learning is like looking through a window to see new horizons;
- Reflection is like looking in a mirror and having time to reflect on the learning;
- Responding is like going through a door considering how the learning will have an impact on yourself or your behaviour.

Collective worship offers time for thought and reflection, and the use of light is used as a symbol. Children are offered opportunities reflect and respond within collective worship. Prayers written or read by the children consider thoughts and concepts that are important to them.

**Barriers to Development of Spirituality**

Development of spirituality can be hindered when:

- adults trivialise something small to them but which is big to a child;
- the 'busyness' of life and not having the time to look and think;
- lack of space for stillness and listening.

By being aware of these potential barriers, staff at ST Andrew's CE Junior School are able to allow children to develop their spirituality throughout their daily lives whilst in the school environment and through our Restorative Practice and Behaviour Policy, which offers children the time and space to consider their actions and how they may impact on themselves and others.