Spirituality Policy







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ST JAMES' CE FIRST SCHOOL AND NURSERY

At St James' this policy has been written and underpinned by our vision and values:

"Make great choices. Be our best.

Wise and Foolish Builders
(Matthew 7: 24-27)

Our school values of ***Hope***, ***Peace***, ***Respect***, ***Friendship***, ***Trust*** and ***Kindness*** are captured through the story of the Wise and Foolish Builders and lived out by children, staff and parents across our community. The school's vision and values are reflected in and will be used to implement this policy.

Definition

At St James' CE First school and Nursery we define spirituality as:

"How I explore, reflect, share and grow into the person I want to be."

We believe that supporting the development of our pupil's spiritual lives helps to enable them to flourish and thrive, with skills that will serve them beyond their time in our care. All members of our school family have the capacity for spiritual growth which includes growing self-awareness, empathy, imagination and creativity.

Spiritual growth is linked to a pupil's wellbeing, mental health and general resilience. It is not something that can be 'assessed' but is important to provide a culture which enables opportunities to explore, reflect and share thoughts, feelings and ideas through mediums such as art, music, poetry, current affairs and within outdoor learning opportunities.

This builds confidence in staff and pupils so that they are equipped to discuss their own spiritual growth within the safe spaces of the classroom, worship and of course at home.

Language

At St James' we support the spiritual growth of pupils through the use of a universal, inclusive language that we exemplify in classroom practise and collective worship.

Using a common framework of self, others, the world, and beyond when discussing spirituality gives both staff and children an accessible, non-threatening vocabulary. This enables everyone to explore abstract spiritual concepts and make sense of their experiences by grounding them in more familiar experiences and relationships.

We aim to give all pupils the tools to name their inner emotions, articulate empathy for peers and others, express awe in nature, and ask big questions about life.

Planning and Provision

Spirituality is planned carefully in our curriculum and through collective worship. We recognise that spontaneous moments can occur and we aim to support and scaffold them when they do, however we believe that it is important to be intentional in planning.

Planned opportunities occur through both curriculum topic time and collective worship. Both these times see children reflecting upon Big Questions using the language structure self, others, world, beyond. Each of the children's termly topics starts with a spiritual link to the new topic being introduced and each Monday assembly begins in the same way. Children discuss, share and reflect upon questions and an accompanying picture most commonly as a large group discussion and ideas are recorded in floor books and/ or individual children's books.

We believe asking Big Questions is an opportune way for us to live out our definition and help children and adults grow as spiritual beings. These questions empower children to trust their own insights (self); realise others may have completely different ideas and be effected differently (others); it encourages children to look deeper at environmental effects and issues (world) and normalises the beyond dimension, making mystery a safe space to explore and wonder.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Spirituality cannot and should not be assessed, however monitoring is important to ensure that all pupils are given rich opportunities for spiritual growth and the language and culture to develop.

The evaluation of our approach to spirituality takes place through a whole school approach. Children's understanding and use of language is monitored through classroom floor books, individual topic books and a whole school worship book. Staff feedback, pupil conferencing and monitoring via our Local School Committee members add an alternative layer in evaluating our approach and making changes as necessary.

We promote spirituality, plan provision for it and prepare our pupils for life with it, seeking an enriching positive impact.

The school's current vision and values underpin this policy and have been used to drive and shape this policy	**This policy was reviewed on:** September 2026