

St. Andrew's CE Infants' School



'I came that you may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance until it overflows' John 10 v 10

Spiritual Development Policy

September 2025

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Our Vision here at St. Andrew's CE Infants' is

'Learning Together in Friendship and Faith'

St. Andrew's CE Infants' School's vision is for every child to:

Learning- be inspired by learning opportunities to progress and achieve
(Psalm 32:8)

Together- work as members of our St. Andrew's family (Ephesians 4:16)

Friendship- build positive relationships working alongside and with other (John 13:34)

Faith- develop spiritually and continue their journey in faith. (2 Cor 4:18)

Each day is lived through our 6 Christian values of: friendship, compassion, resilience, forgiveness, thankfulness and peace.

The verse that underpins our vision is 'I came that you may have and enjoy life and have it in abundance until it overflows' John 10 v 10

Our vision seeks to reflect the Church of England's Vision for Education - Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good acknowledging 'A core desire that we have found expressed in many ways is for 'life in all its fullness'(John 10:10) It is about 'educating the whole person (1988 Education Reform Act)....sees as physical and intellectual development untied with spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

In writing this policy we have been inspired by the Church of England's document ' Spiritual Development :Interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom

Derek Holloway cites from a research paper this formative quote:

'The term needs to be seen as applying to something fundamental in the human condition which is not necessarily experienced through the physical senses and/or expressed through everyday language. It has to do with relationships to other people and for believers, with God. It has to do with the universal search for individual identity - with our responses to challenging experiences, such as death, suffering, beauty and encounters with good and evil. It is to do with the search for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which to live".

Our definition of spiritual flourishing here at St. Andrew's is:

- An awareness of self, others and God, valuing the connections between these
- A recognition of us as spiritual beings on a lifelong journey of faith
- Recognizing moments of transformation
- An awareness of something that there more than is seen-beyond this world
- A growing capacity to think deeply, asking those deeper questions, searching for answers
- Being able to pause, reflect and be..
- Acknowledging the beauty of this world, delighting in it and recognizing the part we play within it.

Our Approach

We aim to teach spirituality through the mirrors windows doors approach.

We use mirrors to reflect, thinking and beginning to fathom ourselves, beginning to seek further through detailed questions and answers. We allow time for individual and group reflection and sharing of perspectives. Some subjects and areas allow for this specifically such as RE and Collective worship , but in all subjects, at different times and occasions within the school day, as noted in our definition of spirituality- that deeper look at life is encouraged and valued.

Windows are for looking out in to the world and becoming aware of its wonders, 'I saw the sky as the sun went down, it was SO many colours' (Creative club: May 2025) To develop our understanding of gratefulness, that we have such a beautiful place to live in, that offers pure beauty and peace.

Doors are for looking and then going through, taking opportunities, making choices, stepping out of our comfort zone and doing something a little bit different, to try something new through perhaps music, art, drama or dance. Continuing to make connections with those around us and the wider world through acts of courageous advocacy (Our Food Bank Friday's)

Collective Worship

This is a time when we come to together, to listen, to be at one through songs, drama and prayer. Our aim through these daily moments to echo the Church of England's message through our worships being inclusive, invitational and inspirational. There is a palpable expectation as we walk through the doors, met by our worship leaders, to find out something new, to inspire us to think deeply ,

to meet and be in the presence of God and take a step along our journey of faith.

We have a time of reflection in each worship, to reflect on e.g a good friend, the message of the Bible story, a prayer. To press 'pause' in this busy world is essential.

We have a time of prayer where pupils come and share their thoughts and prayers with the worship leader. We use our prayer box (situated in the library) to share prayers that folk may have left in passing and if in agreement with these prayers, we say Amen together, pointing upwards so the prayers are lifted to God.

Our values are how we live out our vision of Learning together in friendship and faith. Each term our worships are planned around our values of friendship, compassion, resilience, forgiveness, thankfulness and peace. We showcase ideas, pupil voice and specific vocabulary on our values board situated in the hall.

A KS1 class takes a worship each term reflecting the termly value. We also visit St Andrew's church for our well attended services (Harvest, Christmas and Easter). These are full of joy and wonder and as last year's Christmas service demonstrated, something innately spiritual.

We have a celebration worship once a week, giving our staff opportunities to compliment pupil's attitudes, behaviour choices, academic progress, our Christian value. However small or significant we can lift our pupils up through this time together, the smiles that are shared mean much..

RE

Our RE is taken from the East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE and using the Understanding Christianity approach it provides searching questions to unpick in RE developing understanding. This is a well - planned ,well-resourced curriculum area and ' offers teachers the opportunity to plan and to deliver lessons which are informative, engaging and challenging and which will allow pupils to gain a developing understanding of the range of religious and non-religious world views studied, over a period of time.' (Quote from RE Agreed Syllabus East Sussex)

Spirituality across the curriculum

In English we use a range of rich texts which open our world to our pupils, using both fiction and non-fiction we aim to provide opportunities for imagination, curiosity, overcoming challenges (and facing these bravely), and to grow in our

understanding of emotions, of sameness and difference, growing our schema's to form ourselves.

In maths we focus on a range of skills to fathom aspects of our world and to understand order with e.g number fluency, reasoning and problem solving. Using the maths mastery pedagogy of concrete, pictorial and abstract this inclusive subjects opens doors through looking at pattern, shape, regularity and irregularity, learning through our marvelous mistakes and showing resilience as we try once more.

In science our pupils are given opportunities to use their understanding of the world and expand on this, pupils are encouraged to question and research. They can wonder through the unfolding of a butterfly's wings, experiment with flavours of crisps, expand their knowledge of how and why things work (or don't), begin to appreciate changes in life from birth, life, death and renewal.

In PE they learn how to be a member of team, how important it is to respect our bodies and give ourselves balance, how our bodies work and how we can develop skills by resilience. They can further their understanding of emotions when faced with not quite getting there, but looking deeper at enjoyment and experience.

In Art and DT our pupils are encouraged through looking at artists' work to use their growing knowledge of colour, texture and pattern- that they too are artists'. Picasso noted ' It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a life time to paint like a child.' Understanding how a musical instrument makes a sound, or how a cart trundling away from the Fire of London are skills incorporated into our DT curriculum.

Creativity is considered the highest order (Bloom's Taxonomy) and to express original thoughts and designs using a range of media is following in , the Bible tells us, the Creator's footsteps.

In music there is a depth of understanding in our response to different genres of music played. Understanding there are a plethora of instruments that sound different, playing these together and creating our own music is extremely special. Our pupils' are encouraged to develop their appreciation of a variety of music from around the world, and playing the style of the music- a rousing samba, a gentle lullaby, an enthusing action song engage and inspire us.

Our well established PSHE curriculum gives our pupils weekly opportunities to explore their current world learning more about themselves and their

connections with those around them and starts preparing our pupils for their next steps and the wider world.

This policy is reviewed annually and is very much a working document. We, as noted in our ADP 2025-2026 are focusing on this area of school life this year, as we recognize this pivotal area of development and are keen to nurture this throughout our school day and watch it grow...