Spirituality Policy

St Catherine's
CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our Vision:
Love like Jesus with
Our heads and our hearts
Valuing the similarities and differences
Everyone in our St Catherine's family

We use our heads and our hearts

Values that enable us to fulfill our vision:
Love
Wisdom
Community
Dignity
Hope

"Love one another as I have loved you" John 15.12

"The wise listen ..." proverbs



The value of love underpins what is learnt at St Catherine's. Growth of the heart is equally as important to the growth of the head. Together is everyone, we don't give up on any child, as every child matters. Together is striving to ensure that everyone is enabled to flourish, and everyone achieves their best.

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SPIRITUALITY AT ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our School's Christian Vision: ***Heads and Hearts***

We learn together, using our heads and our hearts.

Love like Jesus with
Our heads and our hearts
Valuing the similarities and differences of
Everyone in our St. Catherine's family.

"Love one another, as I have loved you." John 13:34
'The wise listen…' Proverbs 12:15

Our School's Five Key Christian Values: **Love, Wisdom, Community, Dignity and Hope**

Our Other Christian Values:
Compassion ,Cooperation, Courage, Faith, Freedom, Generosity, Happiness, Honesty, Humility, Justice, Peace, Perseverance, Respect, Responsibility ,Simplicity, Thankfulness, Tolerance ,Trust, Truth, Unity,

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

At St Catherine's C of E Primary School we believe that spirituality is a fundamental part of being human. The word spirituality has a range of meanings including spirit, breath, wind and that which gives life and animation to something. The idea that our spirituality gives life to who we are as individuals, and as a community is central to our understanding of it.

PART 2: OUR CHRISTIAN VISION AND VALUES

We learn together using our heads and hearts.

As a Church of England School, deeply rooted in Christian tradition and values, we believe that every person is made in the image of God and is deeply loved by Him. Guided by Jesus' teachings, we treat everyone with **dignity,** respect, kindness, and fairness.

We strive to reflect God's **love** in all that we do, drawing inspiration from the life and work of Jesus. As we journey together in learning, we seek **wisdom** not only in academics but also in personal and spiritual growth—recognising that the growth of the heart is just as important as the growth of the mind at St. Catherine's.

Together, we are a **community** where every child matters, and no one is ever given up on. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual—their abilities, beliefs, gifts, and passions—knowing that our differences make us stronger. United, we work to help everyone achieve their best.

At St. Catherine's, **love** is at the heart of everything we do. Every person is cherished and valued, and we offer love, forgiveness, and friendship, always believing in the power of a fresh start.

We are committed to working for the common good, not just our own, knowing that through our efforts, we can make a lasting difference in our school, our community, and the world. This **hope** drives everything we do.

PART 3: RECOGNISING AND CELEBRATING SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Spiritual Capacities, Spiritual Context and Spiritual Experiences

Spiritual Capacities

We actively make time in the life of our school to nurture and encourage spiritual capacities in both children and adults. By identifying these capacities, we believe that it is possible to plan for and recognise growth in both individuals and in the life of our community over time. This enables us to judge whether we are fulfilling our aims.

Spiritual Capacities

Through our teaching, we strive to find opportunities for the children to experience:

1. **Awe and wonder**
2. **Connection and belonging**
3. **Curiosity and mystery**
4. **Self-awareness**
5. **Prayer and worship**

*David Smith, Making Sense of Spiritual Development (London, Stapleford Centre, 1999)

Spiritual Context

> *"Spiritual capacities are relevant to all pupils, of any religious tradition or none, and to all areas of the curriculum. They are an important area to explore when considering spiritual growth. However, these capacities can be exercised in various ways in the service of various purposes. We do not encounter them in the abstract. The ways in which we exercise them are bound up with our beliefs, values and commitments."*
>
> David Smith - Making Sense of Spiritual Development.

As a Church of England School, our vision and values are rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. This is the context in which spiritual capacities are fostered and developed.

Spiritual Experiences

The importance of Reflection

> "*There is a danger that spirituality could be trivialized if it is reduced to a welter of nice feelings or gasps of momentary admiration. Spiritual growth will involve reflecting on the significance of an experience for our lives. If there is no such reflection, a feeling remains just a feeling."*
>
> David Smith – Making Sense of Spiritual Development

At St Catherine's C of E Primary, our curriculum is rich and varied, providing many different kinds of **experiences** for children. We give as much time as we can to allow children to **reflect** on those experiences in order that they can learn through, and be **transformed** by them.

Heart Smart is an important and highly valued part of curriculum, this covers many of our spiritual capacities.

To help support this learning journey we use the Window, Mirror, Door scaffold.

Window - experience
The open window represents a new experience. Something that perhaps causes the children to wonder, to be amazed or to feel sadness.
Mirror - reflection
Following experience comes reflection. The mirror represents the opportunity and the space to ask questions about experience, the chance to think and to explore their own and other people's ideas.
Door - transformation
The idea of walking through a door into a new place represents the transformation that can happen in our lives when we learn, grow and change through reflecting on experience. This is when we choose how to respond, how to alter our attitudes, what to do differently in the future.

We plan and provide a range of experiences for children to explore the fullness of life through:

- Termly / weekly curriculum planning
- Daily Collective worship
- Pupils create Collects – a reflection and exploration of our values
- Weekly class worship, including time for reflection
- Weekly RE lessons
- Heart Smart PSHE programme
- Forest School
- Prayer space
- Year 4 and Year 6 Residential visits based in God's outdoors