

## North Nibley Church of England Primary School

### Spiritual Development Policy

# ***Our Vision is to inspire and celebrate learning, achievement, faith and fun.***

Ours is a school that works in partnership with the community to enable and equip each child to live life to the full\*, reflecting the Christian values of our foundation.

#### **We will realise our Vision by:**

- demonstrating, as a Church school, our Christian values in action
- providing a happy, healthy and secure environment where all are respected, valued and encouraged to contribute
- encouraging participation and a love of learning by offering experiences full of opportunity and creativity
- pursuing excellence in every aspect of school life, supporting one another and celebrating the achievements of all

This policy supports our vision by establishing our commitment to the development of the 'whole' child. It guides staff and other adults in their work with children and each other, and underpins relationships at every level. At North Nibley C of E Primary, we hold the Christian belief that human beings are created in the image of God, and that each shares in God's purposes to bring life and allow creation to flourish. This understanding is fundamental to the work of the school, enabling "each child to live life to the full." \*

Gospel of John, Chapter 10, verse 10.

#### **Definitions:**

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, wrote:

'Church schools know that their viscera is not just about acquiring skills and good examination results. It is about forming people who have the moral strength and spiritual depth to hold to a course and weather ups and downs. It is about forming people who know that economic competition is not more important than family life and love of neighbour, and that technical innovation is not more important than reverence for the beauty of creation. It is about forming a people who, however academically and technically skilled, are not reduced to inarticulate embarrassment by the great questions of life and death, meaning and truth.'

Spiritual Development, therefore is the process through which an individual grows in their own personal beliefs and values, which informs their behaviours. Spirituality concerns a person's relationship with themselves, with others, with God (or the transcendent), and with the world around them. Through spiritual development, children are able to understand their own feelings and emotions and this enables them to reflect and to learn.

## **Recognising Spiritual Development**

Ofsted have published the following guidance in their inspection materials:

“Pupils’ spiritual development is shown by their:

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform spiritual development appertains to children’s perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people’s feelings and values
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences”

## **Aims**

At North Nibley C of E Primary we aim to develop in each child:

- A sense of self-worth stemming from the recognition that they are created in the image of God
- A sense of being in relationship with others and a growing understanding of what it means to belong to a community.
- An involvement with others in the wider world and an appreciation of difference and diversity.
- A response to the distinctive ethos of a Church school and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith as a way of understanding our meaning and purpose in life.
- A willingness to explore Christian beliefs and values through a knowledge of Bible stories and Christian teaching in order that these might become a firm foundation for life.
- The ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc.
- The ability to realize that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss can be occasions for spiritual growth and development
- A capacity to value the natural world and a commitment to care for creation
- A willingness to explore the ultimate questions and mysteries of life.

## **Approaches**

- In our school 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.
- 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 prayer including silence and stillness.
- 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 enable children to make the links between biblical values, the life of the school and the wider community.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Opportunities offered to children for Spiritual Development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways:
- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning by peers, Subject Leaders, Head Teacher and Governors.
- Audit of policies and schemes of work.
- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Evidence from pupils’ work, e.g. reflective diary
- Regular inclusion in School Self-Evaluation.