



**All Saints C of E
Infant and Nursery School**

**Selston C of E
Infant and Nursery School**

Spirituality Policy

September 2021

*Opening hearts and minds through the
grace and love of God*

ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) INFANT SCHOOL AND PRE-SCHOOL

SELSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God

At All Saints Infant School and Pre-School and Selston Infant and Nursery School children always come first and we try to nourish, challenge, prepare and inspire them within a Christian ethos.

We believe in valuing all who contribute towards the successful running of our schools including children, parents, carers, governors, teaching and non-teaching staff.

This Mission Statement lies at the heart of our schools' aims. It is the philosophical basis for all of the schools' policies and through these, for everything that happens in and round our schools. Our aspiration is for everyone at All Saints and Selston to:

- feel happy, secure, safe and valued at school
- develop a growing awareness of their own inner self and spirituality, and of the power of the Christian faith to transform lives
- develop healthy relationships based on care, trust, compassion and forgiveness
- show acceptance for and understanding of others who may have different beliefs or needs
- strive for the highest standards of achievement, developing the confidence and skills to be independent, motivated and self-disciplined learners
- have a positive approach to life, contributing to the well-being of the community and building hope for the future

We hope that children will leave our schools with open hearts and minds, ready to respond to the opportunities that lie before them and to experience the joy of life in all its fullness.

Spirituality Policy

All Saints CE Infant and Pre-School, Selston CE Infant and Nursery School

Introduction

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them.
And he said: 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Matthew 18:2-3

As Church of England schools, our spirituality is expressed through our understanding of the Christian Gospel, rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. We fully respect that our children belong to Christian families, families of other faiths and families of no faith, and that they will hold beliefs and values of their own. Our aim is to enable all our children to reflect deeply on what it means to be human and to ascribe meaning and value to human existence.

Spiritual development relates to fundamental questions about the meaning and purpose of life which affect everyone. Whilst these questions are not dependent on religious affiliation or on the prerogative of religions, as church schools we set this development within a Christian framework, encouraging all to have a positive approach to life and build hope for the future.

We describe spirituality as finding God in all things. We want our children to become aware of God, of one another and the world around them. We aim to nurture the inner life of our children, encouraging and embracing their questions, doubts and the wonder of existence. We want our children to reflect on what it means to be in relationship with God and to develop their awareness of God's presence with them.

Spirituality can also be described as an appreciation of what is good, joyful, truthful and beautiful, and in relationship with others, of what is generous, creative and loving. The spirit of a person is seen in acts of courage and perseverance, in dealing with both setbacks and success, in endeavour and enquiry. Spirituality is something fundamental in the human condition which is not necessarily experienced through the physical senses or expressed through everyday language. It is to do with the universal search for individual identity and truth, and can often be found in our challenging life experiences, such as death or suffering.

Aims

We aim to promote the spiritual development of all our children by:

- developing an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God;
- developing an understanding of the distinctive ethos of our schools as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;
- developing knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them;
- developing an awareness of and respect for other people's beliefs and faiths and the ability to articulate their own;

- developing an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);
- developing strategies to build good mental health;
- fostering self-awareness and supporting children to make informed decisions;
- developing the skills and language required to enable children to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life;
- helping children to understand and make sense of their feelings and emotions about events that occur in their lives;
- developing an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth;
- understanding the value of difference and diversity through engagement with others;
- encouraging curiosity, creativity and imagination;
- developing the ability to reflect upon experiences of awe and wonder, compassion, beauty etc.;
- developing a capacity to value the natural world and a commitment to care for creation.

We seek to achieve these aims by:

- ensuring that our Christian vision and values permeate all aspects of school life;
- planning opportunities for spiritual development into the curriculum;
- recognising and celebrating unplanned and spontaneous opportunities for spiritual development;
- ensuring Collective Worship celebrates the love of God for every individual and provides opportunities for children to respond to this;
- nurturing and developing an understanding of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, of prayer and of the Bible;
- providing spaces for silence, stillness and prayer;
- fostering children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight through the creative arts, making use of the outdoor environment and educational visits;
- providing opportunities to listen attentively and observe carefully, listening with discernment, valuing what is good and worthwhile and making judgements through discussion and exchange of views and ideas;
- developing the capacity for children to live with both their own and others' successes and failures;
- developing children's knowledge and understanding of spirituality from a number of world faith and world view perspectives through the RE curriculum;
- providing as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed, cherished and protected;
- fostering children's spiritual capacities, e.g. imagination, insight and empathy;
- providing opportunities for children to explore and express feelings and emotions and celebrate diversity in a safe environment;

- sharing feelings and experiences that foster hope, joy, reassurance and encouragement;
- encouraging children to develop healthy relationships.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Spiritual development cannot be measured and continues to grow throughout our lives. However, we will monitor and evaluate the quality of our provision for spiritual development in the following ways;

- observing and listening to children;
- discussions at staff and governors' meetings;
- sharing of classroom work and practice;
- ensuring that staff have a clear understanding of what spirituality means in our schools through induction and CPD;
- reviewing children's work, e.g. Collective Worship feedback, RE portfolios, PSHE, creative writing, art and music;
- reviewing planning;
- inclusion in the school's self-evaluation process.