

# Spirituality Policy

November 2018

Picture of Fruit bowl



**The fruit of the Spirit ...is not a banana!**

**What we value is more than healthy eating, it is healthy being, just as God shows us how to 'be' in the bible.**

**Love / Joy / Peace / Patience / Kindness**

**/ Goodness / Gentleness/ Faithfulness / Self-control.**

**Now that's wellbeing for all!**



At Verwood CE First School we endeavour to:

Create the right atmosphere for children to work, grow and develop their individual potential, helping them to become competent and confident adults able to live their own lives and contribute to society.

Provide a climate where children learn to co-operate with others, care for their peers and environment and respect the fact that not everyone looks, feels or thinks the same.

As a Voluntary Aided school with strong links with the church we hope to see Christian attitudes forming the basis of the whole school ethos with the school and community working together. High standards are set for behaviour where children are encouraged to be Thoughtful, Honest, Fair and Kind.

At Verwood CE First School Spiritual Development is defined as:

The quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It is associated with a dimension of life which is not necessarily experienced through the physical senses, but has much to do with feelings and emotions, and attitudes and beliefs. The term 'spiritual' need not be synonymous with 'religious'.

We nurture and celebrate the unique value and self-worth of each member of our school family. Here at Verwood CE First spirituality is woven like a thread through the fabric of our school enriching who we are.

Spirituality is about creating precious moments to transform thoughts, actions and our senses. It is the capacity to be still and reflect with awe and wonder on the beauty and possibilities of the human and natural world ... and beyond.

At Verwood CE First School we believe that:

- All pupils have the capacity for spiritual growth which includes growing self awareness, reflection , empathy, imagination and creativity.
- All pupils can have spiritual experiences and these will be unique and may transform self in a moment or over time.
- All pupils can develop a deeper spiritual understanding which enables them to make sense of the spiritual experiences encountered.
- All pupils can develop an understanding of how spiritual experiences may impact on our lives and how these may shape the way in which we live.

At Verwood CE First School we seek to develop spirituality by planning for the possibility of spiritual moments across the curriculum. These are easily found in RE or Collective Worship but can be experienced through other areas such as Science e.g. looking at the beauty of plants or the wonder of outer space.

Spiritual reflection can be encouraged through art, music, poetry, geography, photography, history, current affairs and within outdoor learning opportunities. We encourage children to ask and reflect upon Big Questions and children's questions have a key part to play in the planning of every topic.

However, spiritual moments can also just happen. We seek to give all children the time and space needed to have quiet moments in which self is transformed in some way. We strive to do this by considering three different openings for spiritual development based on the work of Liz Mills:

**Mirrors:** Opportunities for children to reflect, to look inwards and consider The Big Questions in life; to explore their own thoughts.



**Windows:** Opportunities to look out on the world to gaze and wonder; the things we find amazing and which take our breath away as well as the things that disturb or worry us (the wow/ ow moments).



**Doors:** Opportunities for the children to respond, to go through the door and to do something that reflects an expression of their own thoughts and convictions.



This is linked to the four elements of spirituality:

Self	others
Beauty	Beyond - Divine

Our definition reflects all four elements all four elements and seeks to transform through a range of openings for spiritual experiences.

### Assessment

Spirituality is not assessed as we believe this to be a highly personal part of a child's holistic development. We do, however, talk to the children about their thoughts and feelings if these are expressed creatively e.g. through artwork, poetry, reflective writing etc. We believe this is a thoughtful and respectful approach.