



SPIRITUALITY STATEMENT OF INTENT

Review by Head	28 th November 2019
Next Review	Autumn 2021

The Vision of St John's CE Primary School, Rishworth

Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." Following Matthew 5:16, people shine through success, honesty, independence, neighbourliness and enjoyment. We believe children learn best when they're happy and have the confidence to respond to challenges, within a caring Christian environment where adults lead by example. We value the partnership with families and the community whilst striving to give our best.

The School's Aims are:

- ◆ To maximise the academic attainment of each child
- ◆ To maximise the personal, social, spiritual and physical development of each child

The pupils, staff, parents and governors of St John's have worked together to create **our core values**:

Success. We aim to provide excellent learning opportunities to ensure the best possible progress and attainment for all children whatever their needs and abilities.

Honesty. We aim to develop children's understanding of the importance of honesty in all relationships and as part of self-reflection in a Christian environment.

Independence. We aim to develop the self-confidence in all our children that enables them to think and work independently, so striving for excellence in all areas of the curriculum.

Neighbourliness. We aim to ensure that every child becomes a compassionate and respectful member of the school, local, national and global communities.

Enjoyment. We aim to be a safe, friendly and welcoming environment where children have exciting and creative learning experiences that help develop an enjoyment and love of learning.

Introduction

Our school vision states "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (NSRV). A key part of our development of pupils' spirituality is to nurture their spiritual awareness and develop each child's spiritual character in order for them to SHINE for themselves, others and beyond in the wider world.

What is spirituality?

Spirituality at St John's is rooted in our understanding of the Holy Spirit. In our school prayer, we ask for guidance from the spirit to develop a love of learning but also to develop our ability to share love and neighbourliness with others. From this starting point, we aim to develop pupil and adult relationships with themselves, with others, with God (or the transcendent) and with the natural environment around us. These three elements: self, others and the beyond or wider world form the basis of our work to develop a strong sense of spirituality.

The three elements- what these consist of:

SELF - At this school, we want pupils and adults to recognise and develop their own beliefs. We want them to be **successful** in exploring personal faith and understand what is important to them and why. We want them to develop an awareness of feelings and the ability to reflect and express themselves. We want them to trust themselves and develop their ability to be **honest** with themselves and others. We want them to be aware of who they are and celebrate their uniqueness. We want them to be thankful for who they are and what we have. We want them to grow in imagination and creativity.

OTHERS - We want pupils and adults at St John's to develop **independent** thoughts and understand there is always something we can do to make things better for others. We want them to develop empathy and understanding for others, to be **neighbourly**, respectful and tolerant.

WIDER WORLD – We want pupils and adults to be given the opportunity to encounter and experience God, to enquire about the big questions in life and make sense of the world around them. We want them to see beauty in the world around them, to **enjoy** the simple things in life with a sense of awe and wonder. We want them to delight in the beauty of art, music and nature.

How we aim to develop a strong sense of spirituality:

1. Constantly reaffirm the importance of relationships in school and the sense of belonging at St John's.
2. Provide opportunities to explore, express and share feelings in class council time. We use the early adoption of the new RSE and health education framework to support this across the school.
3. Encourage everyone to show kindness, caring and compassion and to express this in practical ways e.g. how we treat each other every day, our charitable works and social action projects and the way we look after animals.
4. Encourage an atmosphere of forgiveness and reconciliation in school to foster a sense of redemption through admitting mistakes and apologising.
5. Provide time in the school day for reflection during worship (e.g. candle lighting, reflection time, prayers etc), in outdoor spaces and in reflective areas in school.
6. Ensure regular time for prayer. This can take many forms, but should include being thankful, saying sorry allowing children the opportunity to open themselves to God.
7. Provide many opportunities for creativity and using the imagination e.g. in valuing play opportunities, singing often with others, engaging in the arts in their broadest sense and furthering understanding through story. This includes both secular and religious texts; in particular the Bible.
8. Provide opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms and appreciate the connections in the world.
9. Provide opportunities across the curriculum but particularly in R.E. to explore the "Big Questions" about life and develop enquiring minds.

Structures to support and develop spirituality

- Buddies and peer buddying to develop relationship between pupils in school.
- Reflective areas planned to coincide with Christian values being explored in worship.
- Worship is planned to half termly themes to provide exploration of our school values and the Christian values for life.
- There is a daily act of collective worship taking different forms and involving children.
- Displays and pictures around the school continually celebrate and encourage reflection and spirituality in an age appropriate manner.
- Visits and visitors to school provide pupils with the opportunity to ask "Big Questions" to people with first hand experiences.
- RE curriculum is thought-provoking and based on an enquiry model used in other curriculum areas.

Impact: how do we know this is being effective?

Spiritually developed pupils and adults at St John's are able to let their light shine in front of others. They love and accept themselves and enjoy good relationships with each other. They take an interest and delight in the world around them; they are open to what lies beyond in the wider world (which may manifest itself in faith/belief in God). They are able to express and understand feelings, they have a strong moral sense and a love of what is good. They are able to enjoy quiet and stillness, they possess an active imagination and show joy in creativity and acquiring new skills.