



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY



A place for all to **grow and flourish**

Our Christian school will provide a safe and nurturing environment in which every child's gifts are celebrated so that they can flourish and achieve. Our school family will reach outwards to our community and the wider world in exploration, love and friendship.



Mark 4:30-32

*The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed you **plant** in the ground. But when you plant this seed, it **grows** and becomes the largest of all garden plants. It **produces** large branches. Even the wild birds can make nests in it and be protected from the sun."*

Date of Review 12.07.2023

Next Review date: June 2025

At Chudleigh Church of England Voluntary Controlled Community Primary School our Christian Foundation will be evident in a variety of ways.

The teaching and love of Jesus Christ shapes our vision, values and relationships and provide a basis for the whole life of the school. Our vision for the children of our school is that they grow physically, mentally, socially and spiritually, so gaining a real respect for themselves, for each other and for the exciting world – God's world- in which we live.

As a school we understand Spirituality as;

1. **being aware of God in our hearts and in everything we do**
What do we do? How do we do it?
2. **being aware of ourselves and our place in God's world**
3. **being aware of others in the world around us**
4. **taking time to absorb the moment**
5. **taking time to experience the awe and wonder of the world**

At Chudleigh CE VC Community Primary School we seek to promote spiritual development within a context of Christian beliefs and values and to provide pupils with opportunities to explore the Christian Faith and develop a personal relationship with God. We aim to:

- provide security and loving relationships to support each child's spiritual search
- foster the spiritual development of each child, regardless of age, sex, ability or cultural background.
- give a sense of personal identity and self-worth to every individual as created in God's image;
- offer a set of Christian beliefs, principles and values by which to live; a sense of transcendence – that there is more to life than 'meets the eye', more than a physical or material existence

- encourage an awareness of order, pattern, meaning and purpose in the world – leading towards an understanding that for Christians, creation is a revelation of God's loving purposes
- build a capacity for awe, wonder and mystery and an awareness of uncertainty and paradox
- instill self-knowledge, and an awareness and growth of feelings, emotions and imagination
- provide an understanding of Christian teaching on life and death, on suffering, grief and loss
- develop an awareness of God's love and care for them personally develop an understanding of the Christian belief of Jesus Christ as Saviour and the Good News he brought to the world.

Our School sets out to provide opportunities in Collective Worship, across the Curriculum and the life of the School for all children and adults to develop their spirituality by:

- providing quiet times to reflect on life and the world and to develop an awareness of the presence of God
- encouraging children to become familiar with traditional forms of Christian prayer and worship, including Christian religious festivals
- providing opportunities for children to become familiar with St Martin and St Mary's Church building
- giving thanks to God for his wonderful creation
- using a variety of prayer forms and techniques, including their own prayers
- questioning, exploring, discussing and giving an account of their own beliefs
- understanding and evaluating Christian and other faiths' interpretations and responses to life
- using their gifts of imagination and creativity
- exploring and expressing feelings and emotions
- developing respect for others as independent, thinking, feeling people
- facing difficult or distressing matters in a context of loving Christian teaching and support.

In our school, Christian spiritual development shares features with other forms of spirituality in that it is concerned with coming to know ourselves, learning to reflect on experiences, exploring important questions of how to live and treat others and so reaching a set of beliefs and values by which to guide our lives. Its distinctiveness, most importantly, consists in its capacity through a context of Christian worship, life and teaching, to offer opportunities for all in our School community to develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus.

Spiritual development in a Christian context is only possible when there is growth of the whole person. It therefore forms the basis for the other three areas of moral, social and cultural development (see SMSC policy). It provides opportunities for teaching wisdom through discussing issues of life. We believe that Spiritual Development should be explicit within all subjects across the curriculum and this is an integral part of our termly planning (see Enquiry Planning).

Impact: how do we know that children are developing spiritually?

Spiritually developed children 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 the material (this 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 discovering new skills.