

Great Crosby Catholic Primary School



Spirituality Policy

Our School's Mission Statement

"....that they may have life and have it to the full." John 10: 10

Spirituality Policy **May 2017**

Introduction:

In contrast to other school policies for specific curriculum areas, this policy relates to the whole life of the school. It is promoted through all the subjects of the curriculum; it reflects our approach to teaching and learning; and its promotion is influenced by the quality of relationships and the experiences of prayer and worship. Spiritual development is intrinsically linked with moral, social and cultural development.

Rationale:

The Education Reform Act (1988) requires the curriculum of a maintained school to 'promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school'

The connection between high standards in the curriculum and effective spiritual development is widely recognised and is evident in many OFSTED and Diocesan inspections.

Spiritual development is at the heart of Catholic education and therefore at the heart of our school: being called to nurture the human wholeness of all our children calls us to ensure that we develop all aspects of our children.

Definition of Spiritual Development:

The word spirituality comes from the word breath. Humans are spiritual because the breath of God is within them. Spirituality is how we experience and relate to God. Spirituality is not an added- on extra. It is there already, as part of being human. Spirituality is a big piece in the jigsaw of life, and if we don't see it and experience it, the picture won't make sense

In our school, we believe that spiritual development is a significant aspect of educating 'the whole child'. It relates to the search for meaning and purpose in our existence in God. It is associated with feelings and emotions, and attitudes and beliefs. It is accessible to everyone and it is rooted in our Catholic Christian faith and tradition.

Aims of Spiritual Development:

- The ability to listen and be still
- The ability to sense the sacred, the holy, our God
- The ability to sense wonder and mystery
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships
- The ability to reflect and to appreciate beauty

Objectives for Spiritual Development:

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- To develop the ability to use all of ones senses
- To consider the mystery of God, to relate to the person of Jesus and the wonder of God's world
- To find an inner self confidence and peace

- To develop in individuals a self-confidence to express inner thoughts in a variety of ways
- To encourage quiet reflection during a lesson or assembly
- To promote an awareness of and enjoyment in using one's imagination and creativity
- To promote the ability to form good relationships with others
- The ability to sense empathy with others, concern and compassion

Opportunities for Spiritual Development:

Staff will provide a role model to children by sharing in the joy of discovery and in the wonder of creation. Our enthusiasm for education that truly nurtures human wholeness will be significant in creating the appropriate ethos for the human spirit to thrive.

1. Within the whole curriculum, children will be able to explore:

- An imaginative approach to God's world
- A spirit of enquiry and open-mindedness
- A recognition of the presence of God everywhere
- A sense of empathy with others , concern and compassion
- Respect for themselves and for others

2. Opportunities will be provided for children to develop their spirituality in a range of ways:

- In R E lessons, reflecting on the traditions of the church and scripture and how faith grows, experienced and lived
 - During Circle time- talking/ listening to others about thoughts, feelings and beliefs
 - By being able to express a creativity and imagination in word, song, movement and action in response to a variety of stimuli
 - By using space in different ways to stimulate reflection
 - By fostering a sense of respect for the integrity of each person
 - Through experiencing a variety of formal and informal liturgies, spontaneous prayer, meditation and reflection
 - Allowing children to experience awe and wonder, excitement and enjoyment in the world around them and the gift of God in that moment
 - To be able to understand human feelings and emotions
 - To experience, silence, stillness and reflection and to learn from that reflection
 - To experience and appreciate a range of music, art, literature and movement
- To participate, as appropriate, in the life of our Parish communities

The following quote summarises what we are about at Great Crosby Catholic Primary School.

‘I prefer to cut children’s spiritual garments a little too large for them to grow into, as they will in time. And who knows what vivid image or hint of the beauty of God will remain in their mind and memory?’

Dorothy Coddington, writing in 1923

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored annually by the RE Team and will be reviewed by the Governing Body every two years. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of Great Crosby Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and Headteacher in conjunction with all the staff every two years from the date below.

Signed....Fr. Furnival.....
(Chair of Governors)

Signed....Mrs P.A. Speed.....
(Headteacher)

Signed. Miss D. Bradley,
Mrs H. Crann,
Mrs J. Wallace.....
(RE team)

Date.....June 2017