



## Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development

### Rationale:

At Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School the ethos is founded on Christian values and beliefs and in particular on the unique capacity and worth of each individual.

The Ethos Statement is as follows:

*At Hawkesbury CE VC Primary School, we aim to provide a caring, Christian environment where all can enjoy, achieve and believe through encouraging perseverance, curiosity, honesty and respect for ourselves and each other, our community and the world around us.*

### Definitions:

**Spiritual development** needs to be viewed as something fundamental to the human condition which is not necessarily experienced through the physical sense and/or expressed through everyday language. It has to do with relationships, with God for those who believe, and with other people. It has to do with the universal search for individual identity and with our responses to challenging experiences, the search for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which to live.

**Moral development** is principally about the pupils' progressive acquisition of the competences and qualities needed to play a full part in society and having shared values that are rooted in Christian belief.

**Cultural development** is principally about pupils' understanding of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills which taken together, form the basis of identity and cohesions in societies and groups.

**Social development** is given high priority in our school, Christian values inform our relationships. Adults in our school model Christian values and they are celebrated in our pupils in a variety of ways.

**Aim: To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all our pupils.**

### Spiritual Development

In order to develop the spiritual aspects of a pupil's life the school will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop a sense of wonder, awe, mystery and joy;
- Listen, reflect and puzzle;
- Consider their own feelings, likes and dislikes;
- Develop personal beliefs and values and learn to respect the beliefs and values of others;
- Show insights into deep questions about life, change and death;
- Engage in activities which involve questioning, valuing, envisioning, empathising, imagining.
- develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God;
- develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;

- develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them;
- develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (eg using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);
- develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth;
- understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others.

### **Teaching and learning**

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring:

- the curriculum and all areas of our community life will be explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as forgiveness, respect, honesty;
- opportunities for spiritual development will be pro-actively planned into the curriculum and actively encouraged in all areas of school life;
- Collective Worship will celebrate the love of God for every individual and provide opportunities for children to respond to this;
- the school building and outdoor environment will provide appropriate spaces for silence, stillness and prayer (eg in reflection areas);
- that children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight will be fostered through the creative arts and interactive multi-sensory teaching strategies;
- that children's moral development will be linked to spiritual development through strategies such as Windows, Mirrors, Doors;
- that the RE curriculum will deliver knowledge and understanding about a range of faith perspectives relating to spirituality;
- that children will be given 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.

### **Moral Development:**

In order to develop the moral aspects of a pupil's life, the school will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop a sense of right and wrong within a supportive environment;
- Develop self esteem and take responsibility for one's own actions;
- Be aware of the needs of others;
- understand how our moral choices can affect the lives of others;
- be able to work together to agree codes of behaviour that are appropriate for our school community;
- understand the centrality of forgiveness and reconciliation in the life and culture of our school;

### **Teaching and learning**

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring that:

- the curriculum and our community life are explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as justice, perseverance, courage and truthfulness;
- our Christian values are shared with members of our school community through our website and school documentation as well as through classroom displays, certificates and stickers;
- collective worship celebrates practical demonstrations of Christian values lived out in the life of the school, local, and wider community (eg interactive, House captain Values awards and 'Star of the Week Award');
- our behaviour policy makes clear that every child is treated fairly and is always offered the opportunity for a fresh start;
- parents and carers are made aware, through our website and other documentation, of our school's expectations regarding behaviour, as well as the rewards and sanctions that we operate;
- children gain skills in conflict resolution through peer mediation training and problem solving strategies;

- children are made aware of moral and ethical issues in the national and international context through, for example, representatives from charities being invited into school to talk about their work;

### **Social Development:**

In order to develop the social aspects of a pupil's life, the school will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Develop skills such as co-operation, collaboration, responsibility, teamwork and initiative;
- Understand and experience the rights and responsibilities of individuals within the social setting;
- Communicate with others with increased effectiveness;
- Engage in activities which benefit others;
- Use language in a range of groups and contexts;
- Write for a range of purposes and audiences.
- build relationships founded upon the Christian values (eg honesty, forgiveness and respect);
- gain a clear understanding of the place of the church school within the wider Christian community including local, national and worldwide;
- access pastoral support from school staff, local clergy and parish team members;
- be equipped to become responsible citizens who recognise the importance of service and working for the 'common good';
- feel a sense of genuine pride in the school and their membership of it.

### **Teaching and learning**

Through teaching and learning, we pursue these aims by ensuring:

- the curriculum and our community life will be explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as friendship, service, generosity and compassion;
- Collective Worship will celebrate and reward practical demonstrations of our Christian values such as, service to the community, and acts of friendship and generosity, particularly shown towards children facing difficulties or challenges (eg House Captains awards, lunchtime awards, Star of the Week, SEAL awards);
- strong mutually supportive links will be maintained and developed with our local community through participation in charity events and acts of service (eg Big Tidy, working with Beaufort house, Macmillan coffee morning);
- strong, mutually supportive links will be maintained and developed with the local and national church and the worldwide Anglican communion through regular worship in the parish church, participation in parish events, and church members supporting the school , Cathedral Leavers' Service, Open the Book etc.
- an appropriately trained teaching assistant will provide pastoral support to children or family members facing challenges;
- our school community strives to be fully inclusive (eg modifying our school building to ensure access for all);
- the Senior Leadership Team prioritises support and engagement with networks (eg cluster meetings, school partnerships and attending headteacher conferences run by the Diocese);
- there is active engagement with parents and carers through the 'open door policy' and active support of PTA activities.

### **Cultural Development:**

In order to develop the cultural aspects of a pupil's life the school will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Value their own cultural roots, interests and achievements;
- Learn from other cultures;
- Engage in discussions on different cultural practices and lifestyles;
- Demonstrate knowledge about their own culture and its practises.
- gain a knowledge and understanding of the values from their own culture, heritage, traditions and an appreciation of how they have evolved and developed over time

- develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the cultures of those with whom they interact day by day, as well as other cultures represented in the UK
- develop a knowledge of the local Christian heritage, particularly through “Experience Church”, visits to local churches and the Cathedral, and to explore their relationship to it.
- develop a knowledge and understanding of the cultural diversity of Christianity through links overseas, RE, Collective Worship and events in school
- understand the relationship between religious belief and culture through a creative and interactive RE curriculum
- explore what it means to be a child made in the image of a Creator God
- understand what it means to be part of a community characterised by openness, hospitality and an eagerness to learn from one another

### **Teaching and learning**

Through teaching and learning, we aim pursue our aims by ensuring:

- the curriculum and community life will be explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as friendship, generosity, and creativity;
- the curriculum will be delivered using creative and imaginative teaching strategies which allow individual gifts and talents to flourish;
- a range of art forms will be used to teach children about Christian heritage and tradition, and also the heritages and traditions of other faiths;
- children explore the ways in which cultural, racial, and religious prejudice can take root and learn how to recognise this and other forms of discrimination as well as ways to counter it;
- whole school projects which celebrate diversity within the local and wider community feature in our curriculum;
- links with our Diocese and dioceses overseas teach children that as a church school, we are a part of the World Wide Anglican Communion which comprises a rich cultural diversity of Christian traditions and practices.

### **Review**

This policy statement will be reviewed in line with the school’s ongoing programme for the review of curricular policy statements.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Collective Worship and Religious Education policies.

Signed: Headteacher..... Date:November 2013

Signed: Chair of Governors..... Date:November 2013

Adopted by FGB:

Review date

