

# Middlefirth C of E Primary School



## Spirituality Policy

2018 – 2019

# Middleforth Church of England Primary School



Mission Statement

*"Let your light shine"*

*Matthew 5:16*

## **SPIRITUALITY POLICY**

### **Our vision**

At Middleforth Church of England Primary the spiritual, moral and cultural dimension of life is expressed throughout the school and additionally as a church school through the Christian faith and through recognition of individuals' spiritual nature. Pupils' individual spiritual development is fostered throughout the curriculum. Religious Education and Collective Worship have a major contribution to this area of experience.

At Middleforth we define spirituality as:

*"The holistic development of a pupils' sense of worth of themselves, of others, and their unknown place in the world. This is achieved through an awareness of inner feelings, beliefs and experiences."*

### **Provision**

The whole school staff takes responsibility for this area of experience and account for the spiritual in planning and policies. Spirituality permeates all areas of the curriculum. Opportunities need to be planned in, but will also occur spontaneously.

### **Current Practice**

The spiritual curriculum is recognised in all areas of school life, particularly in:

- Collective Worship as a whole school or in classes;
- Prayer – collective and individual;
- Values and relationships;
- Whole school curriculum;

- Mission statement;
- Relationships with the local Church

### **Aims of developing spirituality**

- To foster self-awareness.
- To enable pupils to have an understanding of the world around them.
- To develop a set of values, principles and beliefs.
- For these principles to affect pupils' behaviour in a positive way.
- To foster the ability in pupils to articulate their beliefs / faith.
- To develop an awareness of and respect for other peoples' beliefs / faith.
- To encourage pupils to make informed decisions.
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder at the miracle of life, the natural world and the whole created order.
- To develop an awareness of God as creator, provider and sustainer.
- These objectives will enable the pupils to have a quality of life that encompasses respect, awareness, compassion, curiosity, understanding and relationships that reflect order, reason, balance and integrity.

In order to achieve these aims, the following opportunities will be made available:

- To look attentively and observe carefully, for example in art, science etc.
- To listen with discernment to presentations in literacy, R.E. music etc.
- To balance awareness with the reality of life experience in discussion.
- Time to be silent and to reflect on issues in moments of quiet or while music is playing.
- To value what is good and worthwhile and to make value judgements through discussion and exchange of views and ideas.
- To work collaboratively with peers, valuing the contribution made by others when working as a team e.g. on investigations, discussions and problem solving.
- To respect all, as modelled by staff in their relationships with others.
- To experience calm and tranquil moments which afford time for reflection, e.g. during worship, prayer spaces, outdoor prayer spaces or following inquiry.
- To work and live in harmony with others in the school "family".
- To have confidence to express opinion even if others do not agree.
- To learn to live with others and to develop an understanding of friendship and the school as a family;
- To reflect on the place and evidence of the Christian ethos in their own and others' lives;
- To begin to develop beliefs and values by which to live and learn to respect the beliefs and values of others;
- To identify issues of spiritual significance and to explore the Christian response to them;
- To learn to live with success and failure for themselves and with others;
- To respond to the ultimate questions of life;
- To begin to have some understanding of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; of prayer and of sacred texts.

### **Spirituality in the R E Curriculum**

- Specific teaching approaches;
- Offering responses from different faiths to human experiences and feelings;
- Promoting different understandings of spirituality / faith and belief;
- As part of teachers' planning in content and method.
- Respect and acceptance;
- Valuing own and others' faiths/beliefs;
- Exploring issues eg: suffering, life and death;
- Awe/wonder/curiosity/mystery.

### **Spirituality through other aspects of school life**

- Value given to others (eg: charities);
- Celebrating success, eg in class, weekly celebration worship
- Quality of outside environment: Children are able to use the seating area around the planters in the garden for a quiet reflective time and the twigloo.
- Circle time.
- Reflection Areas.
- School Council / pupil views.
- Mission statement.
- Christian values.
- Collective Worship.
- Visits – new experiences: awe and wonder.
- Artist in residence and other visitors.
- Quiet and calming environment in the library area.

### **Implementation of the policy and review**

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff. The review of the policy will take place every two years by the Head Teacher.