

OUNDLE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spirituality Policy

'To Be the Best You Can be' 'Let your light shine before others; that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.' Matthew 5:16

Aim of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to outline how Oundle C of E Primary School provides opportunities for children to develop their spirituality.

It is our role in school to inspire, create and recognise that spirituality exists in everyone. As Jesus said, 'I came to give life - life in all its fullness' and we want to ensure we support our children to be happy and rounded in all respects, including spirituality.

What is spirituality?

Spirituality is not possible to teach. It is like the wind - it makes a difference but is uncontrollable for each person. It might change someone's understanding and beliefs but ultimately is an innate sense of awe and wonder. It is about understanding that there is something more than just 'me'.

Promoting spirituality should not be confused with developing faith. Faith is a set of beliefs by which you live your life by and could be a response to a belief in God. Faith is something you choose whereas spirituality is an aspect of human development - it is not separate but integral to who we are and what makes us whole. Spirituality is for everybody regardless of faith.

How does Oundle C of E Primary School promote spirituality?

Our school aims to support children in making sense of themselves and the world around them. We aim to help them observe their own responses to different experiences. Our school believes that experiences, both in and out of school, are important to the development of all pupils.

We will create frameworks that help them to consider big, sometimes overwhelming, concepts such as life, death, identity, war, environmental factors etc. but without necessarily offering answers. These opportunities come through the teaching and learning of our whole school curriculum particularly our values, Collective Worship, RE, PSHE, Science, Geography/Environment, History, Art, Music, Forest Schools and English.

Children will have exposure to spiritual experiences and conversations to know that it exists for everyone including adults.

Opportunities for spirituality development come when:

- children are given space to stop, look, listen, think and reflect;
- children feel safe to share opinions and think differently from others;
- children use their imagination.

Children need:

- time to be listened to;
- adults that are respectful;
- space to explore, think and discuss;
- opportunities that encourage wonder and surprise;
- to know that there is not always a product or end result;
- to know there is another way.

Activities and opportunities will include:

- exposure and appreciation of nature;
- following rituals and traditions;
- use of prayer or reflection time;
- time for silence and stillness;
- acts of service that benefit others (courageous advocacy);
- stories that promote thought and imagination (without always the need to find a moral)

Evidence of spirituality may come through art, play, attitudes, movement and using the senses.

Spirituality through Collective Worship

Collective Worship can often develop spirituality in both nature and content. Our school uses 'Learn, Reflect and Respond' as three key elements to our whole school collective worship at the beginning of each week:

- Learning is like looking through a window to see new horizons;
- Reflection is like looking in a mirror and having time to reflect on the learning;
- Responding is like going through a door considering how the learning will have an impact on yourself or your behaviour.

The school uses repeated words as our opening and closing that reflect the school vision. Collective worship offers time for thought and reflection, and the use of light is used as a symbol. Our leaders are staff, visitors and children with the content being interactive and responses being encouraged. Children are offered opportunities to carry out a task to help them reflect and respond. Prayers written by the children consider thoughts and concepts that are important to them.

Barriers to development of Spirituality

Development of spirituality can be hindered when:

- adults trivialise something small to them but which is big to a child;
- the 'busyness' of life and not having the time to look and think;
- lack of space for stillness and listening.

Who am I as a Spiritual person?

Through the opportunities provided in school as part of a School Family, children will be shaped as individuals, which enables them to develop their own ideas, feelings and opinions. These may help them to challenge authority in a positive but constructive way, to be aware of justice/fairness and promote courageous advocacy, making them powerful citizens for our future world.

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