



Respect

Endurance

Friendship

*'We live life in all its fullness.' John 10:10*

## SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

### Rationale

At Bishops Lydeard Church School we recognise that the **spiritual, moral, social and cultural** development of our pupils is vital in line with our belief in a holistic approach to education, with the child at the centre. It is taught through every subject of the curriculum and in extra-curricular activities and in RE and PSHE. It supports all areas of learning and is key to a child's motivation to learn.

At Bishops Lydeard Church School we recognise that a child's development is most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by all the staff provide a **model** of behaviour for our pupils. We encourage all at Bishops Lydeard Church School to uphold and respect the **Fundamental values** of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. Therefore at Bishops Lydeard we do not promote extremist views, or partisan political views, through our curriculum and/or our teaching, and we offer pupils a balanced presentation of views when political issues are brought to their attention. We use the '15 Christian Values for Schools' to support spiritual development and we use the 7Rs for learning-Resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness, reliability, respect, responsibility and risk-taking.

We strive to develop pupils who:

- know how to act responsibly
- have an understanding as to how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- have an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their well-being and safety;
- have an understanding that bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account to the people, through the democratic organs of government;
- Have an understanding that the freedom to hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law, and an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour;

## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

Spiritual development is to do with the search for meaning and purpose in life and for the values by which we live. It is about the growth of knowledge and insight into values and beliefs.

We aim to provide a variety of experiences which give potential for the development of an awareness of self, an awareness of other people, an awareness of the natural world and the world around and an awareness of religious beliefs and practices.

Teachers are aware of situations which occur in their teaching, which have the potential to give their pupils the experience of awe and wonder and they will, through such situations, help their pupils to:

- Enter into experiences fully and focus upon them in considerable depth. e.g. the birth of a baby in the family, the death of a favourite pet
- Discover new things which they would usually take for granted. e.g. looking carefully at plants or creatures to see how they have special characteristics unique to them
- Become more aware of the natural world
- Experience the intensity of becoming aware of things at a deeper level
- Ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life
- Develop personal values
- Appreciate and reflect upon the beliefs and values of others whilst having respect for the ideas of people from different cultures
- Value the ideas and contribution of others by listening to things which are important in their lives
- Consider religious beliefs and reasons for different types of behaviour through opportunities that we offer our pupils in RE.

### **Collective worship**

- provides an opportunity for reflection and consideration of issues of meaning and purpose.
- is primarily of Christian nature as we are a church school, but will acknowledge the religious beliefs of others
- touches on the concepts of mystery, depth of feeling, relationships with others, reflection and contemplation

### **Spiritual Development at Bishops Lydeard Church School**

1. We encourage pupils to take risks or face challenges in their learning within a secure and positive environment.
2. We appreciate work from our pupils' imagination and provide frequent and varied opportunities for them to use their creativity.
3. We offer opportunities for aesthetic experience in art, music, drama and literature.
4. We make time for stillness and reflection.
5. We pose questions that encourage our pupils to consider issues of meaning and purpose.
6. We aim to develop good listening skills in our pupils. In addition we show that we listen to our pupils through, for example, our responses to issues raised in pupil interviews and 1-1 learning conferences
7. We help our pupils to understand that there is not always an absolute answer and that at such times it is a positive experience to value a variety of interpretations and responses.

8. To improve co-operation and understanding we provide opportunities for group work where our pupils can have enjoyable and constructive interaction with each other. We often group children with others they would not usually choose as partners and we have community 'family' groups made up of children across all year groups
9. We foster emotional well-being by encouraging our pupils to express their feelings and by having the ability to control their emotional behaviour; our learning mentor supports this practice through regular contact with specific children
10. We help our pupils to develop the capacity for evaluative reasoning and critical thought by encouraging them to look 'outside the box'

These opportunities appear across the curriculum and within school activities, assemblies and extra-curricular events.

## **MORAL DEVELOPMENT**

Moral development is to do with

- the child's ability to make judgements about how to behave and act and the reasons for such behaviour.
- the child's ability to distinguish 'right' from 'wrong' and towards acting consistently with their beliefs and with a view to the consequences of their own and others' actions.
- respect for the fundamental values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- the ability to develop a personal code of behaviour i.e. telling the truth, being honest, respect for justice and respect for property.

The environment in which our pupils learn, and the expectations within that environment, will influence our pupils' moral development.

Our teaching in any subject in the school, including in extra-curricular activities, ensures that our pupils are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views.

Collective worship and PHSE sessions can provide an opportunity for reflection and consideration of issues of a moral nature. We use the Jigsaw material to support our learning material.

### **Moral Development at Bishops Lydeard Church School**

1. Every pupil in the school is involved in the compilation, establishment and annual review of the school's Golden Rules. Copies of these Golden Rules are posted on noticeboards around the school and in every classroom.
2. The school's Golden Rules are directly referred to by staff with the pupil when a pupil either behaves well or behaves badly.
3. Teachers refer to issues appertaining to personal and group attitudes in lessons.
4. We help our pupils make decisions which are acceptable to the school community and society as a whole. We use the '7Rs for learning' which identifies dispositions necessary to ensure good behaviour in school and in future life.
5. We help our pupils to realise that to enjoy rights they have to accept responsibilities.
6. We encourage a sense of healthy self-esteem and personal worth.
7. We help our pupils to value physical well-being, privacy, feelings, beliefs and rights of others
8. We value and help our pupils to value every individual in the school for the contribution they can make in all situations.

9. Pupils are encouraged to explore their feelings in reactions to different stimuli.
10. Pupils are addressed with respect by staff and are actively encouraged to express views in a positive and polite manner.

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Social development is to do with

- relating effectively to others
- managing responsibility
- participating and contributing positively within the school community and to those living and working in the local community and to society more widely
- an understanding of citizenship

The general school environment, its routines and structures, provides opportunities for promoting the social development of all its pupils.

### **Social Development at Bishops Lydeard Church School**

1. In the classroom and within extra-curricular activities our pupils are able to work in pairs and in groups on collaborative projects which require cooperation, understanding, and the ability to listen to others, to contribute and exchange ideas e.g. clubs, challenges, school trips, school camp, community groups, year 6 'jobs'.
2. Our pupils organize and get involved in charity events to support national charities e.g. sport relief, children in need.
3. Classes work together to plan and deliver assemblies to the whole school. e.g. Class assemblies, Leavers' assembly
4. There is a wide ranging extra-curricular programme and every child is actively encouraged to take a full part. There are competitions with members of clubs from other schools e.g. chess competitions.
5. Team games in sport assist in the development of interpersonal skills. There are a wealth of competitive matches against other local schools in many sports; netball, football, hockey etc
6. Our choir goes out into the local community to visit elderly residents at Christmas
7. Our pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a residential school trips in year 6
8. Citizenship and the rule of law, including visits from the local services, is planned into topics.
9. Eco- Council is democratically elected each November

## **CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

At Bishops Lydeard Church School we celebrate each child's racial and cultural tradition and encourage each pupil to be proud of her heritage. Through many curriculum areas, as well as extra-curricular activities, we encourage pupils to respect and appreciate the diversity and richness of the cultures and heritages different to their own and to avoid and resist racism.

### **Cultural Development at Bishops Lydeard**

1. We have a link with a school in Bristol, to give the school community the opportunity to gain insight and wonder at the cultural diversity within our local area.

2. There are opportunities to visit places of interest to stimulate discussion of the cultural aspects of a subject
3. We celebrate diversity through Collective Worship and studies of prominent figures in society.
4. Theatre groups and musicians visit the school e.g. African Choir, African Drumming Workshops
5. Pupils are given the opportunity to attend musical/drama events eg local festivals
6. Our pupils experience the culture of other nations through celebrating their festivals e.g. Chinese New Year, Diwali, Passover
8. Aspects of other cultures are shown to pupils e.g. lifestyle cooking, dance etc as these aspects are planned into topics e.g. Tribes in the Rainforest