



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

First Written: January 2005

Latest Review: Nov 2014

Agreed by Governors:Chair of Governors

Agreed by Head teacher:Head teacher

At Withington C of E Primary School and Pre School Playgroup we hold the Christian belief that human beings are created in the image of God, and that each shares in God's purpose to bring life and allow creation to flourish. This underpins the values and work of the school and is endorsed in our vision/mission statement.

School Values

Our values 'Fruit of the Spirit' (see footer) and our motto, 'caring for each other' show the whole ethos of the school. The children all know these values and we relate all we do to them. (See 'Living Values' document)

Aims

To develop in each child:

- A sense of self worth stemming from the recognition that they are created in the image of God
- A sense of being in relationship with others and a growing understanding of what it means to belong to a community
- An involvement with others in the wider world and an appreciation of difference and diversity
- A response to the distinctive ethos of a Church school and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith as a way of understanding our meaning and purpose in life
- A willingness to explore the Christian beliefs and values of the school community as a foundation for life and through them to be able to counter negative forces in human experience
- The ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc
- The ability to realise that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth and development
- The ability to explore the ultimate questions and mysteries of life.

Approaches.

- In our school we seek to find ways in which all areas of the curriculum can contribute to children's spiritual development and to highlight opportunities for these in our planning.
- We seek to foster spiritual capacities, eg. imagination, insight and empathy.
- We allow children the opportunity to explore and express feelings and emotions.
- We provide opportunities for silence, stillness and prayer.
- We share feelings and experiences that foster hope and joy, reassurance and encouragement.
- We encourage children to develop relationships based on the Christian values of love, forgiveness and service to others.
- We endeavour to link the concerns of the gospel with the life of the school and the wider community.
- We seek to challenge children to reflect upon the significance of their learning.

Staff and Governors have access to training in Spiritual development where and when available.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Opportunities offered to children for Spiritual Development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways:

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning by the RE co-ordinator / head teacher
- Audit of policies and schemes of work
- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings
- Sharing of classroom work and practice
- Evidence from pupils' work, eg reflective writing
- Regular inclusion in SDP