



Madron Daniel CofE school
INSPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

Spirituality Policy

(part of SMSC)



An Baya

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Date agreed: January 2021

Signed: Headteacher:

Signed: Chair of governors:

Date for review: January 2023

Mission and Aims statement

Recognising their historic foundation, An Baya Primary Schools will preserve and develop their religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at Parish and Diocesan level.

At An Baya Primary Schools our mission is to educate children spiritually, intellectually, socially, morally, aesthetically and physically to be able to make a difference by following the example of Jesus in the gospels living out 'life in it's fullness.'

The schools aim to achieve this by:

- **Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills** by following a broad and balanced curriculum that stimulates a sense of curiosity and excitement about the world whilst developing the full potential of all children
- **Educating for Hope and Aspiration** by providing a safe, nurturing and caring environment where all children can take risks, build resilience, flourish and demonstrate courageous advocacy in action.
- **Educating for Community and Living well together** by building positive relationships with our local, national and international communities and for the schools to be hubs of learning in the community, making a positive difference to children and their families.
- **Educating for Dignity and Respect** by promoting perseverance, generosity, and courage so that children leave our schools equipped with the character virtues to make a difference.

DEFINING OUR APPROACH TO SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

At Madron Daniel C of E Primary school the promotion of spiritual development is an integral dimension of school life. We aim to nurture the spirituality of everyone in our school community and recognise that if it not nurtured than spirituality can wither.

Therefore, spiritual development permeates and is promoted through all areas of the curriculum and through the ethos of the school and daily collective worship.

Understanding of self and others is at the heart of spiritual development and is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith. Spiritual development is accessible to everyone. It involves accompanying children of all faiths and none, in their search for self and identity, recognising that this search will not always result in following the Christian way.

However, as a Church of England school, we place special emphasis on the specific teaching and beliefs of the Christian faith, both within the daily life of the school and through the curriculum.

DEFINING CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY

At Madron Daniel C of E Primary, we use the following definitions of children's spirituality to guide our practise:

Children's spirituality is an *initially natural capacity* for awareness of the sacred quality to life experiences. This awareness can be *conscious* or *unconscious*, and sometimes fluctuates between both, but in both cases can affect actions, feelings and thoughts.

We have further defined Spirituality as 4 complimentary and interrelated aspects, acknowledging the multi-faceted nature of spirituality.

Self

Spirituality is an appreciation of who we are. It involves reflecting on our own feelings of well-being and our place in the world evoking feelings of appreciation, thankfulness, peace and hope. Spirituality is recognising 'now' moments with a sense of awe and wonder.

Others

Spirituality responds to that which is greater than self. It inspires love, compassion and altruism as it encourages an awareness of others and their beliefs.

World and Beauty

Spirituality creates a reflection and wonder at our natural environment, the earth and the universe.

God and Beyond

Spirituality is a connection to something higher than ourselves. It is a belief beyond the secular, beyond the everyday. Spirituality echoes the image of God in whom we were created. It is about making space for God in our lives.

AIMS FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Aims

To foster spiritual development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Develop the ability to listen and be still;
- Develop the ability to reflect;
- 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 (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);
- Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life;
- 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.

PROVISION FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

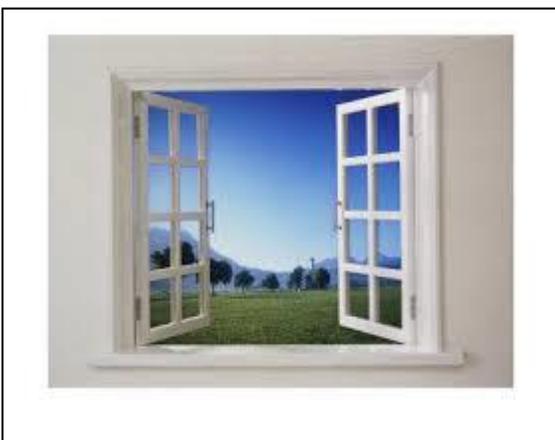
For children’s spirituality to develop and flourish, there must be trust that school is a safe place where their doubts, fears and questions will be listened to. There is a shared understanding that the spiritual life of the school is the wellspring of moral, social and cultural development and all that makes the community what it is and strives to become.

Opportunities for spiritual development are pro-actively planned into all aspects of the curriculum and encouraged in all areas of school life. To help develop these and a balance of opportunities staff refer to and are guided by the Spirituality Progression Grids (Alan Rickett). Staff actively plan two opportunities for spiritual development each term using a simple Spirituality Planning grid based on the 4 aspects of Spirituality as defined above.

However, it is recognised that opportunities for spiritual development can also occur spontaneously. Staff will record these occasions on the Spirituality grid noting the context of the opportunity.

Visual Model of Spirituality

We use the window, mirrors, doors and beyond to help use plan and think about Spirituality. This model is referred to in collective worship and in our planning of opportunities for spiritual development for the pupils at our school.



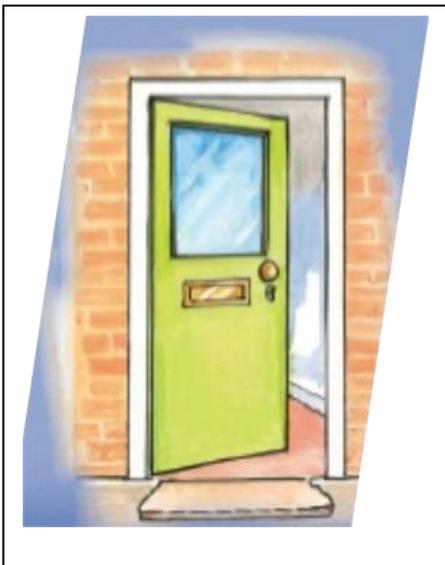
Windows are for looking out onto the world and becoming aware of its wonders, both the ‘wows’ and ‘ows’; things that are ‘awe-full’ and make us wonder and be grateful and things that are ‘awful’ and make us wonder and ask questions. The whole curriculum and life itself are full of opportunities to recognise this sensitively

Encounter: The learning about life



Mirrors are for looking into and reflecting, alone and together, to see things more clearly, for thinking and asking important questions learning from our own and each other's responses. We allow time for this for individual and group reflection and sharing of perspectives. Some subjects and times allow for this specifically, such as religious education and collective worship but in all subjects, there will be opportunities, unexpected or planned, when things just 'crop up'. Handled sensitively, it is possible to make the most of all these times, if there is ongoing deliberate and corporate staff and pupil support.

Reflection: The learning from



Doors are for looking through in order to then act or express this in some way in response; for moving on, making choices, and doing something creative, active and purposeful in response. This can simply be done through a change in attitude or behaviour or thinking. It can also be expressed powerfully through music or art or drama or dance and through some form of social action or specific acts of giving

Transformation: The learning to live by putting into action what they believe.

THE ROLE OF COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship provides daily opportunities for the children's spirituality to develop and flourish. Children are given the opportunity to learn from the example of Jesus through gospel stories and other Biblical teaching. This forms the root of the Christian values that shape our whole school ethos, ensuring that Collective Worship is a central activity in the life of our school.

Within RE, Collective Worship and PSHE, the school will:

- allow pupils to investigate and reflect upon their own beliefs and values;
- provide opportunities for pupils to share what is meaningful and significant to them, including the

'darker' side of life;

- provide opportunities for prayer/reflection/silence, the exploration of inner space;
- encourage a balance of music, speech, silence and the creative arts when exploring spiritual development.
- explore the use of symbol, image, allegory and metaphor in the curriculum;
- explore what commitment means;
- always invite a response and never coerce.

CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

The curriculum and all areas of our community life is explicitly rooted in Christian values.

Within the Curriculum, pupils will be able to explore

- an imaginative approach to the world;
- a spirit of enquiry and open-mindedness;
- an approach to the holy or the sacred;
- an awareness of order and pattern in the world

Children will be encouraged to express their creativity and imagination.

We foster a sense of respect for the integrity of each person and create an atmosphere which enables children and staff to speak freely about their beliefs.

OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

At Madron Daniel C of E School we have extensive outdoor space that we are developing to provide different areas for activities and potential for spiritual development. Outdoor education features strongly in our curriculum. Regular planned outdoor learning at Madron Daniel C of E School provides the children with many opportunities to experience the natural world and awe and wonder moments

To promote and provide for spiritual development within the school grounds we have:

- Early Years class and Key stage 1 class have reflection areas in their classrooms.
- A place for reflection, stillness and prayer in the school hall. This includes an interactive reflection area linked to our focused Christian value for the half term and a prayer tree where children have the opportunity to write their own prayers and hang them on the tree. During the school year there are also opportunities to write prayers for more specific occasions.
- A developing pond wildlife area
- An orchard with fire pit for outdoor activities, growing areas

We are also developing a Spiritual and Sensory Garden with the children and this will include a place for reflection and stillness.

We also use the natural space in Cornwall and outdoor resources in Penwith for encouraging spiritual development and appreciation of the natural world.

Beyond the Formal Curriculum, the school will:

- Encourage children to express such feelings as transcendence, wonder, transience and change, paradox and unease, injustice or inequality whilst listening carefully to others' questions and responses;
- Treat everyone in our community, pupils, staff, parents and governors with respect;
- The school is building closer involvement with the Madron Parish Church with themes being explored in school and church. Children have opportunities in the school year to contribute and participate in church services and church events
- The school also has developing links with Penlee Cluster as part of An Baya Federation.

Assessment of Spiritual Development

We recognise that whilst we can endeavour to provide opportunities for Spiritual development the usual models for assessing cannot apply to spiritual development. All staff need to be mindful to 'invite but not coerce' responses. We strongly acknowledge that children are their own agents in forming their individual belief base.

Through carefully thought-out opportunities we *may* be able to gauge children's involvement and response to opportunities which *may* show the child

- becoming aware of God in their life and in the life of others
- becoming aware of and reflecting on experience
- questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- understanding and evaluating a range of possible responses and interpretations
- developing personal views and insights and a grasp of the intangible
- applying the insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to one's own life
- acquiring a sense of empathy with others, concern and compassion.
- development is best seen through pupil's relationships and conversations with others.

Pupil conferencing will be carried out each year on this area with the Governors for SMSC and a member of staff. This will involve a group of KS1 and KS2 children talking about their understanding of Spirituality. Each class has an 'Awe and Wonder' book to collect photos to help develop talk about spirituality.

Responsibilities

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- ensuring that the Church Foundation of the school is honoured and that the SMSC Policy promotes an ethos based on Christian principles and practice.
- ensuring that the SMSC is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate governor

The SMSC co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Understand the impact that good spiritual (moral, social and cultural) development can have on the school as a whole.
- Overseeing the planning, the provision and the monitoring and evaluation of Spirituality development.
- Keep in touch with national developments and will act in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues.
- Provide staff with updates of information.

Monitoring and evaluating Spirituality

This is an on-going process. There is a staff meeting each term set aside to evaluate previous term opportunities and to develop Spirituality opportunities for the term ahead.

Links with other policies

This policy links with the existing:

- Behaviour for Learning Policy
- Equality Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- RE Policy
- Collective Worship
- SMC Policy
- Overall Curriculum Policies

And will link with:

- PSHE

RESOURCES

Developing Children's Spirituality resource box is kept in the staff room with books and articles linked to this area.

Key text: Developing Children's Spirituality by Rebecca Nye Useful Websites:

Diocese of Salisbury: www.salisbury.anglican.org

Diocese of Norwich: www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Diocese of Bristol: www.bristol.anglican.org (good SMSC lesson plans)

REVIEW

The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, two years from the date of its adoption. Informal Review may be necessary in the interim and should take place as and when required.