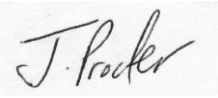




Spiritual Development Policy

Review cycle	1 / 2 / 3 years	Date: September 2022
Approved by	Full Governing Body / Executive Headteacher	
Changes made in this review cycle		
Linked policies		
Signed		Date: September 2022
Position	Executive Headteacher	
Date of next Review	September 2025	

"With God all things are possible"



Our Vision

In our Church school, we learn through our values of Love, Strength, Wisdom and Truth. We aim for the highest standards and believe that by building a strong community, we can take care of everyone's wellbeing, achieving fullness of life.

"With God all things are possible" Matthew 19:26.



"Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9



"Let us learn together what is good"
Job 34:4



"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
John 8:32



Achievement For All, Learning Together, Learning For Life

Introduction

At East Hoathly, our school Christian values of Love, Strength and Wisdom and Truth, are at the heart of all that we do, ensuring that as the pupils grow and eventually move on, they have a strong moral compass to guide them through their journey. Part of this is promoting the idea of and developing pupils' Spirituality.

Spirituality is developed by exposing pupils to:

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences

How do we promote Spirituality?

At East Hoathly we aim to foster Spiritual development through:

Our School Vision and Values

Our school vision and values (above) run deeply through our whole school community. They encompass all personnel – pupils, staff, volunteers, governors, PTFA, parents/carers, East Hoathly's church congregation and our local community. All are encouraged to use the values of Love, Strength Wisdom and Truth to guide their decision-making, moral behaviour and relationships. We recognise our influential role within the village and as such ensure we promote being part of a 'thriving

community' through links with the church and PTFA, as well as showing care and respect for the environment through our forest school sessions and wider curriculum.

Windows, Mirrors and Doors

Our children will encounter experiences everyday that inspire to ask the 'big questions' and allow them to explore the awe and wonder of the world around us. Spiritual experiences will offer time and space to consider topics that are possibly unknown or challenging as concepts but central to the development of individual values and beliefs. The experiences will explicitly develop our children's intellectually, emotionally and morally. They will learn to pause, consider, and listen to encourage inspiration to learn more and develop wisdom through reflection. They will know how to affirm their thoughts, feel rooted in self belief and have the courage to lead change for the better. They will take their reflections and develop their ability to teach and lead through '**Go and do likewise**'.

An opportunity for spirituality may be identified by staff or students during their learning. The learning will pause in order to support a deeper understanding and appreciation of the current topic. There are many different strategies that can be used to explore spirituality and we encourage staff and children to explore their chosen medium for reflection.

As a school, we have chosen to use the Windows, Mirrors, Doors concept as a common reflective structure for spirituality. We have developed the model and to ensure it is accessible for all of our students from EYFS through to Year 6.

It explicitly encourages an individual to look out into the world and develop knowledge around a given topic or theme. Skilfully, we encourage students to ensure that they explore a variety of windows within the tower of knowledge, guarding against a linear view on the topic prior to reflection.

Using the mirror, they will explore their own thoughts, promoting questions and an opportunity for deeper consideration regarding the changing of mindsets and personal development. Finally, looking forward to 'the door', our pupils will consider their learning and their contemplations whilst preparing for how they might develop new behaviours and thinking. When reflecting on the door, students will think to after they leave their lesson and how they can take what they have understood about themselves and the world into the community in order to lead or model change. This links reflection to action within our vision of 'Go and do likewise'.

Our Curriculum

Spiritual development is a key element of our curriculum and is explored through many different subjects.

Religious Education: enables pupils to develop spirituality through a sense of awe and wonder learning about the life and work of Jesus as well as exploring the world through the story of Creation. It encourages pupils to reflect on their own beliefs but also exposes them to beliefs (both religious and non-religious through our thematic studies) that they need to be mindful and respectful of.

PSHE: enables pupils to recognise that everyone contributes to the society in which they live and the wider world. Promotes an awareness of self, in connection with self-esteem, confidence and morals and allows them a safe opportunity to express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.

Literacy: enables pupils to develop empathy and understanding by reflecting on the role of others through listening to stories and drama. Encourages pupils to be creative through varied texts and

genres and provides ample opportunity to develop imagination through planning, writing and listening.

Science and Humanities: enables pupils to develop spirituality through a sense of awe and wonder through discovering the world around us. Promotes the idea of protecting the environment and an opportunity for enjoyment and fascination learning about natural forces and beauty around the world.

Music, Art and Physical Education: enables pupils to develop a sense of wonder at personal achievements and an understanding of people's feelings through being reflective and critical. Provides opportunities for children to listen/look at, and respond to, a range of music and art and express themselves creatively.

Spiritual Journals: Every other week, each class has a dedicated time for spiritual reflection to further explore the stories/ideas shared in Collective Worship. This allows pupils time to, often creatively, reflect both as a whole class and individually.

Courageous Advocacy: A courageous advocate is someone who champions a cause which is special and meaningful to them. At East Hoathly, we teach our pupils that it is important to help others when we can no matter who they are, where they come from or what challenges they may face. Using our values of Love, Strength, Wisdom and Truth to guide us, we support a range of charities in our local area, nationally and globally. The Pupil Governors work with staff, governors, parents, pupils and our local community to support, raise funds and raise awareness of important charitable works.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is a key part of promoting spirituality as it allows pupils an opportunity to reflect on others' beliefs and morals, whilst thinking about their own. It encourages enjoyment through learning new stories, discussing world events or singing together and allows a time for creativity through special event or class assemblies.

On Monday mornings, we meet together in the church and focus on the termly value. This is linked to a story and there will be a biblical link to this – either using a biblical story or a particular biblical verse that ties in with the value. Children open the worship by lighting the candle and saying the prayers. The leader of the worship, helped by the Pupil Governors, will then take the school through the worship and finish with a song. At the end, the children will then close the worship with our values prayer. On alternate Tuesday mornings, the children will stay in the classes and have Spiritual Journal time (as explained above) or a visiting Vicar will lead worship in the Church. On Wednesday mornings, the whole school go up to church for worship with members of the church community. With the help of some pupil volunteers, 'Open the Book' lead the school through a bible story linked with the value of the term and the children will sing together. On Thursday mornings, the children will meet in the hall for singing worship. Here they will learn a hymn or non-denominational song with a similar theme to the value of the term. They will also learn songs for particular Christian festivals across the year, such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other celebrations such as Harvest. We celebrate those who have been showing their Values during the week, as well as giving out any Headteacher awards and handing out the Golden Broom. We also celebrate any pupil achievements outside of school

Links with the Church and Community

Every day, the pupils have Collective Worship in East Hoathly Church led by school staff, members of the community or visiting speakers. Pupils have a key role in these services through drama performances, writing and reading their own prayers or reading bible texts. The significant Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas (Nine Carols and Lessons), Lent (Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday) and Easter (Easter Readings and Hymns) are all held in Church. We also hold a Leavers Day

Service and End of the School Year Service in the Church. In November the pupils lead the Remembrance Service in the church yard alongside a visiting clergy member.

Additionally, we carry out a range of different fundraising to support many good causes, some of which include:

- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Sport Relief
- Comic Relief
- Children in Need
- The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- Starfish Malawi
- Uckfield Foodbank

We encourage our pupils, parents and staff to be generous with their time and think of ways they can show care for our world and people who live in it. Some examples of this include:

- Pupil Governors who seek the views and ideas of all members of the school community
- Linking with our local residential community and those who are within residential care homes.
- Links with other schools within the federation, local community and global charities