



St Mary and All Saints CE Primary School

Spirituality Policy

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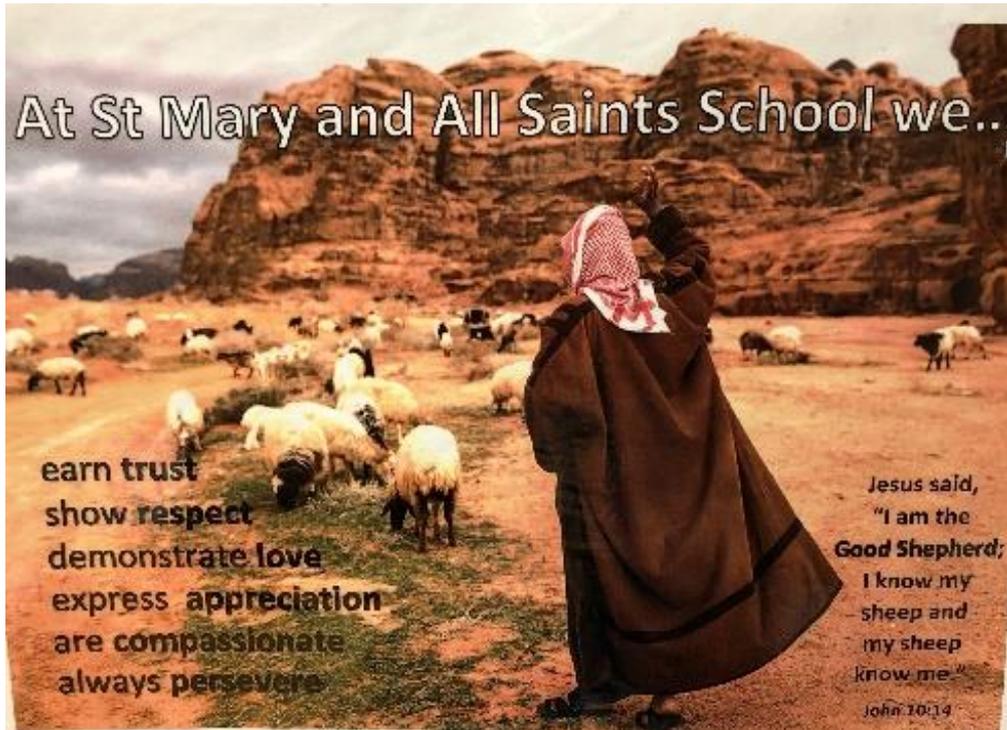
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Our Christian Vision and values



Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me." John 10:14

Through these words, at St Mary and All Saints our vision is to seek to value the individual, knowing that everyone in our community really does matter. We nurture strength and talent, offer support in times of need whilst always encouraging one another to grow and flourish, recognising the value of the life we have been given and the opportunity to live it in a full and rich way. We have a strong school ethos where 'Everyone Matters'.

Our vision is for members of our school community to contribute to making our school a loving and caring atmosphere where we all;

- earn **trust**, from our peers and within the school community and beyond and where we trust ourselves,
- show **respect**, towards everyone and everything around us,
- demonstrate **love**, for one another,
- express **appreciation**, giving thanks for everything we have,
- are **compassionate**, striving to offer sympathy in the direction of others,
- and always **persevere**, meeting challenges with resilience and determination

All we do at our school will be underpinned by the above vision. This policy should be read and understood from this perspective.

Our Definition of Spirituality

At St Mary and All Saints CE Primary School we aim to give all children opportunities to think about themselves, others, beauty and creation and the world beyond us. We want children to become independent thinkers and we want children to experience awe and wonder regularly. We model an environment of inclusion and respect. We allow children the space, process, imagination, relationships, intimacy and trust to be spiritual beings.

How we promote spirituality at St Mary and All Saints CE Primary School

We plan actively across the curriculum, in collective worship and with special activities to nurture children's spirituality.

We do this through:

Environment - We think carefully about how we value space when connecting with the sacred. We use images, sounds, symbols to create a sacred space. Each classroom should have a designated prayer/reflection space. We use symbols and colours when creating worship spaces. We use familiar beginnings and endings to frame worship. We use the local church as a sacred space. We seek to use the natural environment as much as we can including our peace garden. We also provide emotional space –giving children time and space to explore emotions and give that space to each other.

Creativity - Jesus taught in stories, parables and imagery. We plan to give children opportunities to explore and think about themselves, others, the world and God in an imaginative and open-ended way. We enable children to explore images, music, space, opportunities without always having a learning intention or fixed achievement point – but instead let them explore freely and use imagination. We imagine ourselves into the story of God.

Relationships - We aim to create authentic models of relating to each other as part of a family and nurturing our own relationship with God. We model mixed age relationships within school – using buddies, volunteers and visitors and the church community. We have a listening and respectful ethos within the school which equally values all views and contributions

Safety - Spirituality is often about coming closer to things, then delving deeper and taking risks. We give time and space for people to present opinions that are personal and sacred to them. We create safe spaces in classrooms and collective worship where all contributions are valued equally rather than seeking a “correct” answer.

Trust - We have to trust and become comfortable with different kinds of knowing. Trust is also essential in getting to know God, particularly when life is hard and we experience change. We trust God to be at work in our school community, that God will speak to our children, we trust faith stories and traditions to stand for themselves. We need to let go of always having to offer the “right” answer, and be prepared to share our own beliefs, unknowing and perhaps doubts. We trust that the community can bring answers to difficult questions.

How Do We Nurture Spirituality?

- SPIRIT is embedded in planning across the whole curriculum.
- In collective worship
- Through our school's Christian values
- Through our natural environment
- Through our school' Christian vision
- Through relationship with our community and the church
- Through one off experiences eg Reflection areas in schools
- In our behaviour policy
- Through displays and images in the school eg Christian Values display
- Through Prayer meetings and activities in the prayer room
- Through our relationships with one another and with God

How Do We Monitor Spirituality?

- Through our foundation governors
- Through pupil and teacher feedback and assessment
- Through Prayer meetings
- Through an annual review of our policy
- Through SIAMS inspections and continued professional development