



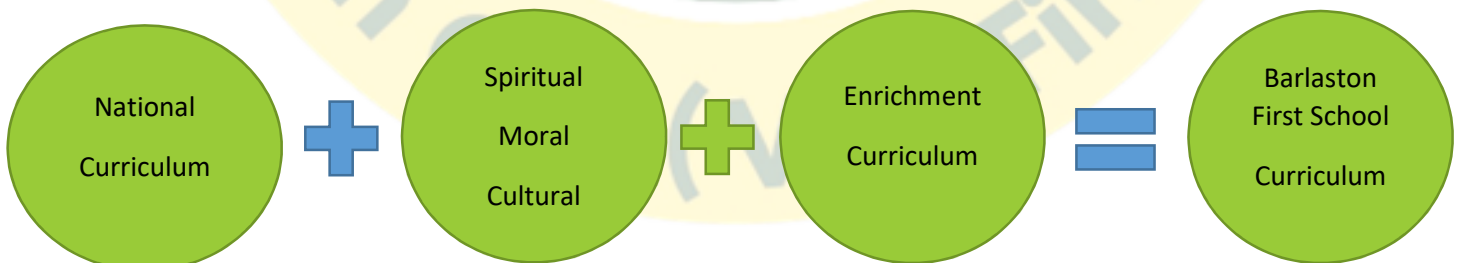
## Character Education

### Let Your Light Shine Through Family, Friendship and Faith

At Barlston, we promote our Christian Values in everything we do. Our values are Family, Friendship and Faith. These values, along with other values practised within these main three, are at the core of our school, and provide all with the desire to let their light shine and be the best they can be. Schools receiving our children in year 5 often comment about the confidence and values our children bring with them as a result of the teachings and experiences they have gained at Barlston First School.

We are very proud that during their time with us, children develop into confident, independent young people who know how to be a good person, how to value others, have good self-esteem and belief in themselves.

This is achieved throughout our creative and enriched curriculum, that is ever changing to meet the needs of our children.



Through our ethos “let your light shine through family, friendship and faith” we value the uniqueness of each individual child plus recognise and nurture their potential for learning.

We know that if a child is happy and secure, they will learn. Our aim, through our

curriculum, is to ensure every child is inspired to be the best they can be, to instil within them Christian values that will be carried with them through life's journey and to inspire them to be a good role model to others, throughout all of their life.

Character education enriches the children's experiences in the following ways:

### Giving to Others

Through our charity work for local and national charities, the children develop an understanding of people/ children that are less fortunate than themselves and see ways in which they can help.

We support many charities including:

Comic Relief

Children in Need

Donna Louise Trust

Royal British Legion poppy appeal

Collection for local food banks

Samaritans purse

### Feed the Hungry

Our school is linked with the charity "Feed the Hungry" and three schools in Kibera, a slum in Kenya. Children and parents continue to provide support for our family schools. This has been hampered due to COVID restrictions, but is still on going. This has included:

Gathering stationery, clothes, books, toys etc that we, as a staff took out to the schools in January 2019

Taking part in a food packing event which was attended by many parents and children

Communication via letters and video link to the schools

Kindness kits to be sent to Kenya as our 2022 Lent Appeal

Collection for food banks, poppy appeal and Kenya work is carried out in conjunction with the church.

### Wellbeing for All

Through our pupil mental health and wellbeing policy, we strive to be proactive rather than reactive to pupil needs. Children know that they are able to talk to any member of staff at any

time about worries and concerns. The nurturing environment that is evident at Barlaston First School enable the children to feel safe and listened to.

Pupils know that their voice is important and will be heard. They also know to support their friends if they are feeling low and alert staff to their needs.

Mental health and wellbeing is covered in many areas of worship, PSHE and in general classroom conversations.

### Christian Value Theme Days

Each term, we launch our new value with a whole school theme day. The children and staff love this approach. The day is always started with a worship to introduce the new value and ends with a gathering together to reflect on our day.

### Celebration of Festivals in the Church

We hold a church service for all main Christian Festivals where every child takes part, and these are always well attended by parents and the wider community.

### Lessons in the Church

Where relevant, a variety of lessons may take place in the church. This may be through an art project or learning about places of worship.

### Reflection and Prayer Time

This is built into the everyday activities and experiences in school. Reflection time is included in worships as well as our whole school prayer, prayers led by staff and pupils, many of which are spontaneous. 'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'

### Vicar and Church Members Lead Worships

Every Wednesday, a member of the church comes into school to lead worship. This support group includes vicar Stewart, an ex-foundation governor and a current foundation governor.

Another member of the church leads on Early Years worship every three weeks.

### Outdoor Learning to Appreciate God's Wonderful World

At times, we have worship outdoors and can truly appreciate God's wonderful world by experiencing the joys of nature. This really lends itself to wonderful reflection time.

Outdoor Learning/ Forest School

The children regularly have the chance for forest school activities, where they can experience nature at its best.

Eco –Warriors

We have an Eco Warriors Council that meets to look at climate change and discuss/ action how we can preserve and protect God's world

