

# **Barlaston C.E (VC) First School**

## **“Let Your Light Shine”**

### **Spirituality Policy**

#### **Our Ethos**

Let Your Light Shine (Matthew 5:16)

#### **Our Vision Statement**

Let your light shine through family, friendship and faith

#### **Our Spirituality Vision**

Spirituality is an ever changing journey through life, connecting each individual with something bigger than themselves

#### **Equality Statement**

The school is committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

#### **Dyslexia Statement**

To ensure that children on the dyslexic spectrum have equal opportunities and that their diverse strengths are celebrated and built on.

#### **Safeguarding Statement**

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

### **Philosophy**

At Barlaston First School, the spiritual dimension of life is expressed in all areas of school life, essentially through the Christian faith and through recognition of the spiritual nature of mankind.

Pupil's individual spiritual development is fostered through the curriculum, Religious Education, daily worship and at many other times in the school day, whenever opportunities occur. Pupils are encouraged to foster skills of reflection, meditation and stillness and to develop a personal response to God within the Christian faith. The school recognises that the development of spirituality across the whole curriculum is fundamental to the development of the complete child, and opportunities for awe and wonder are to be grasped whenever they appear.

Spiritual development is rooted in relationships as we experience the love of others. Through this we learn to love ourselves. It encourages us to believe in ourselves, be open minded and thankful.

### **Legal Requirements**

- The 1944 Education Act says that the LEA is responsible for contributing to the “spiritual, moral and physical development of the community”

- Spirituality is a cross- curricular dimension which can be fostered in aspects such as creativity, relationships, emotions, self knowledge, meaning and purpose, transcendence, awe, mystery, wonder and beliefs.
- The importance of Spirituality is recognised by Ofsted, who seek to make judgements on how pupils are responding to this area of experience and how schools are accounting for provision and enabling spiritual sensitivities to be fostered.
- The spiritual boundaries in our school are determined by its Church status. This provides a framework within Christianity and other religions, which adheres to similar values and principles and affirms the spiritual essence and vision of all religious experiences.
- Nothing which dishonours the Anglican foundation of the school will be considered appropriate to be included within the spiritual curriculum of the school.

## **Aims**

- To foster the spiritual development of each pupil, regardless of age, sex, ability or cultural background.
- To foster a reverential attitude to God
- To recognise and value each individual spiritual journey.
- To learn about and respond to Christian beliefs, festival, rituals and symbolism.
- To recognise and respect the spirituality of other faiths.
- To foster a sense of the sacred, the Holy, the Divine
- To provide experiences of awe, wonder and joy.
- To encourage exploration of ideas of the meaning and mystery of life
- To foster reflection, meditation and stillness (on their own and with others)
- To recognise own uniqueness, self worth and self esteem
- To foster empathy with others and compassion for others
- To develop a moral conscience and an understanding of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour
- To develop and explain personal views
- To become aware of difficulties in life, eg suffering, loss and the feelings associated with them.
- To develop enjoyment and fascination in learning and in life

## **Guidelines**

- The ethos and Christian value of the school is reflected in the mutual concern between staff, pupils, governors and parents.
- The school environment is such that pupils feel safe and able to grow in self awareness and self worth
- All staff are responsible for inclusion of spiritual opportunities with curriculum planning and in policies.
- Staff recognise the cross curricular nature of spirituality and also the need to allow for spontaneous moments as and when required.
- The Headteacher, Governing Body and staff ensure that spirituality is affirmed in the aims and ethos of the school.
- There is no individual assessment of spiritual development but pupils are expected to develop in line with NCC guidelines

Reviewed Oct 2021

Next review Oct 2022