

# WATERINGBURY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Learning, Growing, Achieving...Our journey together with God*

## Spiritual Development Policy

Our Christian vision is “Learning, growing, achieving ... our journey together with God”. It is based on the Parable of the Sower meaning that we try to grow in all that we do, making the right choice of soil to maximise that growth.

### Aims

- Each child feels safe, secure and confident.
- Each child is inspired, challenged and supported to be a successful learner and reach their full potential.
- Each child grows in spiritual awareness, knowing that their own views are valued and respected.
- Consider disadvantage and injustice on a local, national and global level.
- Appreciate the relevance of faith in today’s world.
- Consider how religious beliefs affect their own lives and their own behaviours.

### 1. Introduction

“Spiritual development needs to be beyond the boxes of RE and PSHE and that instead it must be something that should influence all areas of education as it does all areas of life.” (Derek Holloway)

We recognise that the development of spirituality is important for all children, regardless of their faith or beliefs. As a Christian school, we teach the children about the Holy Trinity and about Christian understanding of spirituality. We also encourage the children to look around them; to value the beauty of the world, be understanding towards all humanity and to understand and relate to their own emotions.

### 3. Aims

To develop in each child:

- A sense of self-worth and having a relationship with others in the wider world.
- An appreciation of difference and diversity.
- A response to the distinctive ethos of a church school and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith as a way of understanding our meaning and purpose in life.
- A willingness to explore Christian beliefs and values so they become their firm roots for life and growth.
- The ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc.
- The ability to realise that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth and development.
- The ability to explore the ultimate questions and mysteries of life.

### 4. Objectives

At Wateringbury School, we seek to find ways in which all areas of the curriculum can contribute to the child’s spiritual development and to highlight opportunities for these in our planning:

- to seek to foster spiritual capacities e.g. imagination, insight and empathy.
- to allow children the opportunity to explore and express feelings and emotions.

- To provide opportunities for silence, prayer and reflection.
- To share feelings and experiences that foster hope and joy, reassurance and encouragement.
- To encourage children to develop relationships based on the Christian values of love, forgiveness, resilience, joy, respect and courage.

#### **5. Role of the School**

- To teach a rich and diverse spiritual education through the Rochester Diocese agreed R.E. syllabus.
- To monitor and evaluate the spiritual development of our pupils including: monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning by the appointed subject leader.
- To provide daily acts of collective worship developing various aspects of spirituality.

#### **6. Equal Opportunities**

We recognise that families may hold different beliefs or follow different religions and as such, by request, children may be withdrawn from some aspects of religious education, such as collective worship.

However, all pupils will have access to spiritual development through the ethos of the school which underpins this policy. Spiritual development is, in itself, inclusive as it will enable each individual and their individual needs to grow spiritually.

Review Body:

Headteacher

Date:

January 2022

Review:

January 2024