

Spiritual Distinctiveness at St Andrew's School

Our aim at St Andrew's is to foster the intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development of all our pupils. We believe that children need a caring, consistent environment that will encourage our pupils to leave St Andrew's with a sense of moral and spiritual awareness, a love of learning and the desire to achieve high standards in all that they do. We will encourage children to develop a sense of where they belong, a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them and a growing ability to relate to and communicate with others.

Spirituality is part of who we are. As well as physical and material things being a part of life, the spiritual helps to inform our perspectives, beliefs and actions, growing our interest in and respect for different people's feelings, values and different faiths.

Spirituality helps us to think about who we are, how we can improve the lives of others, and as a result improve our own happiness through sharing, caring and being kind. This may include times in our everyday lives that affect or change us in order to make us a better person. Spirituality also allows us to experience and appreciate the beauty of our world and all things great. It includes that sense of enjoyment of, and being fascinated with, learning about ourselves, others and the world around us.

It is our aim at St Andrew's to find effective ways of developing our pupils' aspirations, sense of identity, self-worth and belonging. We also aim to develop principles, beliefs and values that include an appreciation of the world around them and the ability to take conscious responsibility for the choices they make.

Our school ethos is built upon Christian, biblical values which include 5 specific values we have chosen to highlight as a school community. These are Trust, Hope, forgiveness, friendship and Justice. Our school vision statement affirms these stating that:

We believe that 'Everyone is different. Everyone is special'. As Jesus taught us to love unconditionally, so we strive to nurture respect for all, to provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that considers the individual and to care for the intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of our whole school community - encouraging positive engagement with the wider world, as affirmed through our school parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God ... and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" Luke10:27

St Andrew's Spiritual development will:

- Encourage pupils to reflect on their own experiences and learn from others;
- Allow our pupils to understand and explore values and different beliefs. These will include Christian beliefs, those of the main world religions and beliefs that are personal and relevant to them - while exploring the way in which they impact on peoples' lives;
- Provide opportunities to understand feelings and emotions and develop understanding and empathy;
- Allow pupils to grow and flourish, to respect others and be respected;
- Promote teaching styles which value pupils' questions and give them time to reflect on their own thoughts and ideas, and explore their responses;
- Allow pupils to know that spirituality is all around us and helps to make us who we are.

We will encourage the school community to reflect on their spirituality by exploring four 'moments':



Mirror moments: Your relationship with yourself

- 'What makes you special / unique?'
- 'What inside you makes you a good friend?'
- 'I am good enough just as I am!'
- 'What are your hopes for the future?'



Door Moments: Your relationship with others

'How would it feel if you put yourself in someone else's shoes today?'

'What positive thing could you say to your friend today?'



Window Moments: Your relationship with the world

'What will you take the time to stop and notice that will make you say wow today?'

'What are you amazed by?'

'What do you not know about yet, but would like to explore?'

'How might the world out there need help / justice? '



Candle Moments: Your relationship with something greater than yourself

'Who is God?'

'Who made the stars?'

'Why do bad things happen?'

'Where do you see our school values in each of these four moments?'

'How might God be involved in each of these moments for a Christian?'

At St Andrew's we nurture spirituality throughout school life and especially through activities such as:

Whole and Class collective worship and assemblies

Prayer spaces, mindfulness, circle time and mental health support / activities

Our Spirituality Day

RE, PSHE and RSE

The role of our home-school-link worker

The curriculum choices we make about our programmes of study

Restorative practices and charitable giving

The 360 Programme

Our inclusion and behaviour policies and practices

Questions asked, insight shared and time given to reflect in each area of the curriculum.

The way we interact with each other, the world and God.