



Garton on the Wolds CE Primary School

Respect, Aspire and Achieve

Our school works in partnership with the church and the wider community to give a caring and nurturing environment. Together we enable and equip everyone to have life to the full as Jesus promised. This vision is underpinned by the values of hope, friendship, respect, forgiveness, perseverance, tolerance and thankfulness.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10 v.10)

We will realise our Vision by:

- demonstrating, as a Church school, our Christian values in action
- consistently high standards of teaching
- providing a happy, healthy and secure environment where all are respected, valued and encouraged to contribute
- excellent leadership and governance
- encouraging a love of learning by participating in experiences full of opportunity and creativity
- pursuing excellence in every aspect of school life, supporting one another and celebrating the achievements of all
- a partnership of pupils, teachers, parents, governors and the local community
- Targets are challenging and achievable.

Our Values

Our Values are at the heart of our school vision and are illustrated in the Cross and shared with children on a regular basis, in Collective Worship and reinforced through our teaching and every day school life.

We established these in collaboration within our school community.

Our values can be said to be 'Human Values' and inclusive for all. As a Church of England school, however, we have rooted these Values in our Christian beliefs and in stories from the Bible making it particularly memorable for children.

Spirituality Policy

Our School Vision is to work as a community within the school's Christian ethos. We learn about world faiths alongside our Christian Values to work towards creating an Outstanding school where all can flourish. Through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum we encourage every child to develop lively, creative and enquiring minds enabling them to become confident individuals who reach their full potential and succeed in Modern Britain. Our school works in partnership with the church and the wider community to give a caring and nurturing environment. Together we enable and equip each child to "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (The Gospel of John – Chapter 10, verse 10).

We will realise our Vision through the following aims:

- demonstrating, as a Church school, our Christian values in action
- providing a broad and balanced curriculum to all children
- consistently high standards of teaching
- providing a happy, healthy and secure environment where all are respected, valued and encouraged to contribute
- excellent leadership and governance
- encouraging a love of learning by participating in experiences full of opportunity and creativity
- pursuing excellence in every aspect of school life, supporting one another and celebrating the achievements of all
- a partnership of pupils, teachers, parents, governors and the local community
- targets that are challenging and achievable.

Introduction

At Garton on the Wolds Primary School, all aspects of school life reflect our Christian ethos. We aim for all children to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10) and this includes their spiritual development.

What is Spirituality?

Whilst the concept of spirituality is difficult to define, here at Garton on the Wolds, our shared definition sees the concept as central to what makes us truly human. There is an understanding that there is much awe and wonder in the world, along with a sense that we are all part of something greater. In essence, it refers to a connectedness to and appreciation of the wider world and our place within it. Spirituality is felt within ourselves by individuals and so cannot be taught or measured - instead being something that needs to be nurtured and given the right conditions and space to grow. We acknowledge that spirituality is deeply personal and so we afford every individual with the space and opportunity to develop along their own spiritual journey.

Our shared understanding of opportunities to encourage spiritual development draws upon the work of Liz Mills, who uses the concept of a ring doughnut to explain Spirituality. The Doughnut represents the Whole Child. The outer ring is the tangible (Mind and Body), the hole represents the intangible (Spirit) but if there was no hole it wouldn't be a doughnut. This, for us, remains perhaps the best definition of spiritual development; it is the exploration and development of that hole in our centre that makes us whole.

Opportunities for the development of spirituality come when:

- children are given space to stop, look, listen, think and reflect
- children feel safe to share opinions and think differently from others
- children use their imagination

Children need:

- Time to be listened to
- Adults that are respectful
- Space to explore, discuss and think
- Opportunities that encourage wonder and surprise
- To know that there is not always a product or end result
- To know that there is another way

Activities and opportunities will include:

- Exposure to and appreciation of nature
- Use of prayer and reflection

time • Time for silence and stillness • Acts of service that benefit others • Stories that promote thought and imagination (without the need to find a moral).

Barriers to the Development of Spirituality Development of spirituality can be hindered when:

- adults trivialise something small to them but which is big to a child;
- the 'busyness' of life and not having the time to look and think;
- lack of space for stillness and listening. By being aware of these potential barriers, staff at Garton on the Wolds are able to allow children to develop their spirituality throughout their daily lives whilst in the school environment.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the:

Collective Worship Policy

RE Policy

Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years as a minimum.

It is next due for review in January 2024