

# Hawridge and Cholesbury CE School



## Spirituality Policy

**Our Vision is for every child within the Hawridge & Cholesbury family to grow, flourish 'have life and ... have it more abundantly' (John 10:10 KLV); to be fascinated, rounded, eager to make a difference, spiritual and have high aspirations through Jesus' teaching and our curriculum.**

**We live our vision through our natural setting and our school values:**

**Respect Teamwork Responsibility Understanding Peace Honesty**

**Adopted by the governing body on  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Next review March 2027**

## **Introduction**

Hawridge and Cholesbury Church of England School offers a high standard of education to all children and is determined to develop the potential of all children within its Christian ethos. The school attaches a high priority to strong links between local churches, home and school. The school teaches an understanding of other major faiths, cultures and customs. The school believes all aspects of the curriculum and collective worship should contribute to spiritual development. Religious Education has a special role to play in this process.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of spiritual development at Hawridge and Cholesbury School is to recognise that:

- Each individual is a spiritual being
- Each individual is at a different point on their spiritual journey
- Each individual has a need to have their spirituality celebrated and developed
- Each individual understands they are in relationship with others - the local community and the wider world and an appreciation of difference and diversity

## **Aims**

To develop in each child the following:

- A sense of self worth leading to inner self confidence
- The ability to practise silence, calm, reflection and inner awareness during lessons and in collective worship
- The ability to reflect upon experiences of compassion and beauty
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them
- An appreciation of loving relationships
- The ability to realise that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss can be occasions for spiritual growth and development
- A capacity to value the natural world and a commitment to care for creation
- A willingness to explore the ultimate questions and mysteries of life
- 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 through a knowledge of Bible stories and Christian teaching in order that these might become a firm foundation for life.

## **Approaches**

All teachers take responsibility for, including aspects of, spirituality in their teaching. They aim to advance spiritual capacities such as imagination, insight and empathy. Through teaching the curriculum the school aims to develop the whole child: their academic growth, their emotional growth and their understanding and acceptance of themselves. This can be done by acquiring new skills, exploring experiences and assimilating knowledge. Visits and visitors can also play an important part, particularly places of worship and natural beauty, art galleries and places of scientific interest.

Learning Experiences will provide opportunities for pupils to be FRESH (**fascinated, rounded, eager to make a difference, spiritual and have high aspirations**) and to:

- Develop personal beliefs
- Grow in understanding of personal identity and worth
- Ask questions about the meaning of life and mystery of life
- Increase awareness of their own thoughts, emotions, responsibilities and experiences
- Show care and consideration in listening and talking about the beliefs of others
- Develop an understanding of what it means to belong to a community
- Express their own beliefs, thoughts and ideas clearly but sensitively
- Be inspired by the natural world and human achievement
- Develop ideas of fairness and justice.

These skills take time to acquire and need to be practised. Most of these skills can be practised throughout the whole curriculum. As a church school we expect the children will be affirmed in their spiritual journey and know that belief is valuable and Christian belief is endorsed by the school community.

### **Physical Environment**

All members of our community are encouraged to care for our special school environment as a sign of Christian care for creation and one another. All classrooms have an area for prayer and reflection. Our uniform incorporates the Christian cross which reminds all of Christ's presence in the school community.

As a school there is particular emphasis on our beautiful and varied school grounds, acknowledging our wonderful position opposite the Hawridge and Cholesbury Common. These unique assets are used regularly across the curriculum and often provide the backdrop to introduce and develop pupils' spiritual awareness. Our termly Kith and Kin days offer the chance for pupils to spend time in our school grounds engaging in a wider curriculum task with their family.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Opportunities offered to children for Spiritual Development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways:

- Subject leader monitoring
- Audit of policies and schemes of work
- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings
- Sharing of classroom best practice
- Pupil voice