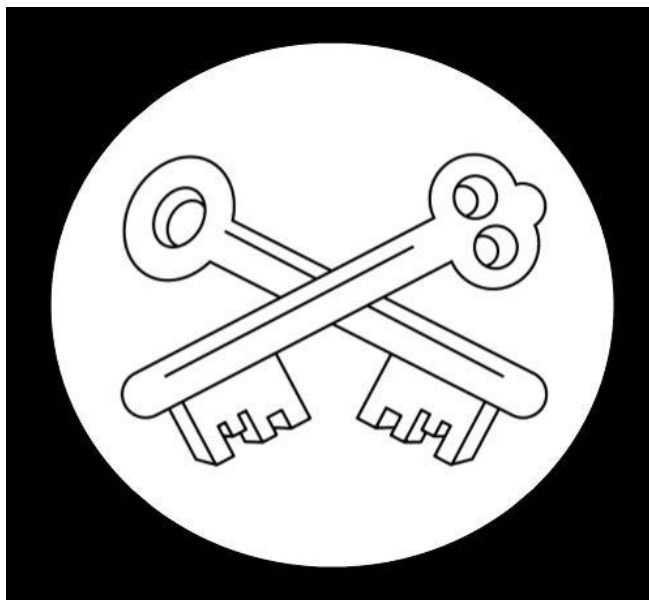
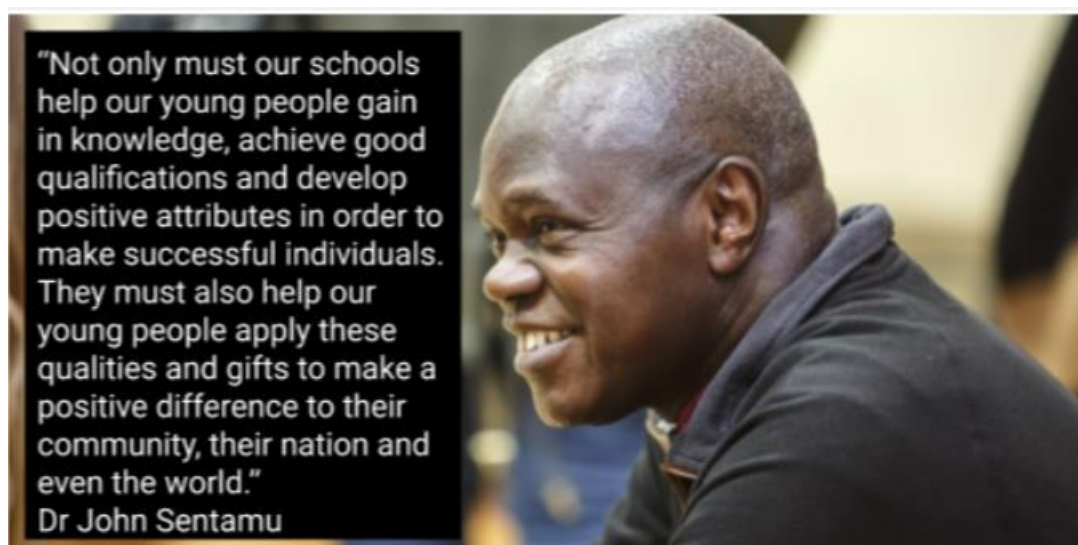


St Peter's CofE Junior School



Spirituality Policy



Our vision: A place for all to flourish

Our mission: To empower and inspire a community of lifelong learners by providing an education of the head, heart and hands in order to change our world for the better.

Our values:

	Value	Definition	Link to Christian teaching
	Aspiration	We have the highest of expectations and believe everyone can succeed.	To aim high and to do the very best that you can echoes the Apostle Paul's exhortation to the Corinthian church to 'Run in such a way as to get the prize' (1 Cor 9:24).
	Kindness	We care and look after everyone in our school community.	Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22) and evidence of God at work. The Apostle Paul described kindness as an intrinsically Christian attitude of heart (Col 3:12).
	Contribution	We strive to make a positive contribution in making our community and world a better place.	Our need to work together, with an understanding that everyone's contribution is essential, is rooted in the Apostle Paul's vision of the church (Rom 12:4-5) where we are 'one body but with many members'.
	Enjoyment	We want everyone in our school to be happy, healthy and develop a love of learning.	Joy is another fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). The truth is that God wants us to enjoy life, but enjoyment is always a choice to be chosen and learnt (1 Tim 6:17).
	Resilience	We believe that by nurturing the skills and mindset needed to confidently tackle challenges and changes, with perseverance and optimism anything is possible.	'Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.' (James 1:2-4)
	Growth	We aim for all individuals to flourish and develop fully the skills and interests that they possess.	It was the Apostle John who declared that each one of us is bursting with potential and the capacity for growth and fruitfulness (John 15:1-4).

Aims

We aim for children, and adults, to grow in their ability to:

- be guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand to defend them
- be self-aware and empathise with the experience of others in the school and wider community
- love themselves, care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve, and find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges
- exercise imagination and creativity, appreciate beauty in the world and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder
- be intrigued by mystery and be open to an awareness of the transcendent in the whole of life
- be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection/meditation/prayer
- be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves and to forgive others
- be willing to take risks and to reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success
- demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions
- appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life like friends and family, and show generosity towards others

(From David Smith's work on Spiritual Capacities)

Our Working Definition of 'Spirituality'

"Spirituality is the concept of exploring the purpose and meaning of life, to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the world we live in, to question our place within it and to work to care for our body, mind and soul. Spirituality is not dependent on religious belief or a particular faith."

Legal Requirements

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 states: The curriculum for a maintained school or maintained nursery school satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which: (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and (b) prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The SIAMS Schedule references spirituality in both the RE and Collective Worship strands but the main focus is as part of strand two on Wisdom, Knowledge and

Skills. The Church of England Vision for Education has a core desire for 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) which requires educating the whole person.

The OFSTED framework states that pupil's spiritual development is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faith, feelings, and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences

Supporting Spiritual Development

We support spiritual development by:

- Ensuring that everyone connected with our school is aware of our values and aims.
- Providing high quality and valued Collective Worship, which allows time for stillness and reflection.
- Developing a consistent approach to spiritual development throughout the school.
 - Ensuring pupils, staff, governors and regular volunteers know what is expected of them and why.
- Ensuring that lessons are planned within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to pupil's age and development.
- Enabling pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Enabling pupils to begin an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures which now enrich our society.
- Giving each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility towards each other, the wider world and the environment.
- Giving each pupil time to reflect on their own personal beliefs whether these are religious or non-religious.
- Providing opportunities to reflect on experiences of awe and wonder, beauty and compassion etc.
- Providing opportunities to explore the distinctive ethos of Church schools and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith.
- Providing a safe environment where both pupils and staff know their self-worth and they are comfortable with, take risks and learn from failure.
- Ensuring pupils and staff have a physical place where they can stop to reflect and recharge.

Developing Spirituality Through Links With The Wider Community

We actively seek opportunities to make links with the wider community. These include:

- Regularly welcoming visitors into school, to support our curriculum and provide enrichment.
- Fostering links with the local church, the Diocesan Board of Education, and other church schools.
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as important, enabling parents and staff to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil.
- Teaching pupils to appreciate, and to develop a sense of responsibility towards their local environment and world.
- Links with the local charities, local events and local organisations

Monitoring Spirituality

Monitoring and review of spiritual development provision is carried out on a regular basis in the following ways: ● Learning walks ● Pupil voice. ● Monitoring of Collective Worship and practice. ● Sharing of classroom work and practice. ● Evidence from children's work. ● Parent and pupil surveys.