



HAWKESLEY CHURCH PRIMARY ACADEMY

Developing Spirituality Policy

"Let your light shine" Matthew 5:16

OUR MISSION

Spirituality is a core component to 'living life in all its fullness' as the mind, body and soul needs to be nurtured equally. It relates to fundamental questions about the meaning and purpose of life which affects and is not dependent on a religious belief. It is also based on the search for ways to answer questions about life and identity.

As a school within the Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust, we have a shared language in which to explore the meaning of spirituality by considering that:

"Spirituality is about your relationship with and knowledge of:

Yourself (emotional intelligence and self-respect)

Others (love, friendship and connection with others)

Nature (joy in the natural world)

Arts, Culture and Sports (joy in art, literature, culture and sport)

A Greater Force (be this a belief in God(s) or awe and wonder in science and nature)"

At Hawkesley, we believe that God's mission is carried forward through church schools, as much as a congregation. We refer to ourselves as the 'Hawkesley Family' and this is why it is our mission to ensure that children leave our school with the ability to enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for themselves so that they can *'let their light shine.'* Matthew 5:16.

We interpret this to mean that we are people called to be light, illuminating our community through selfless service, and demonstrating our shared greatness through our Christian ethos and virtues. We intend to develop our pupils to shine as light in the community, through voluntary giving of their time, talent and skills, for the good of all. 1 Peter 4:10, *'Use your God-given gifts to serve others.'* We believe spirituality allows our children to develop how they relate to themselves, others and the world around them, as well as fostering a sense of connection to something bigger than themselves.

We provide a knowledge rich curriculum and believe that through the accumulation and application of knowledge, children are then equipped to utilise their character strengths and God-given gifts, as the Bible says, *'For wisdom is better than rubies...'* Proverb 8:11.



DEVELOPING SPIRITUALITY AT HAWKESLEY

Spirituality can be perceived by different people in many ways. It is discussed and explored throughout the academic year during Collective Worship and is discussed within classes to ensure that staff and children continue to deepen their understanding of all aspects of Spirituality. It is becoming interwoven within all aspects of school life at Hawkesley. We believe spirituality allows our children to develop how they relate to themselves, others, nature, arts, culture and sport as well as exploring a sense of connection to a greater force. Our curriculum is rooted in our strong Christian vision and values, which are referred to throughout each day, from 'Sparks of Wisdom' in Collective Worship to sessions around Social and Emotional Learning, including My Happy Mind lessons. We encourage spiritual development through a range of events and activities that we believe act as 'windows' – an awareness of the world in new ways - and 'mirrors' – opportunities to reflect.

At Hawkesley, we aim to explore our BDMAT shared interpretation of Spirituality which is centered around the following five different connections outlined by the BDMAT. During Collective Worship, we explore Spirituality and throughout the curriculum, we give children rich and varied activities and opportunities to experience and discuss spiritual moments in their lives. Staff share their experiences too, which can be inspirational for others. Pupil voice regarding Spirituality is collected regularly and used to plan for future Collective Worship and discussions.

YOURSELF (emotional intelligence and self-respect)

Implementation:

The language of spirituality begins with a Christian understanding that *'Everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God.'* (Isaiah 64:8). We view spiritual growth as becoming more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. These opportunities happen throughout each day as children deal with delight and disappointment and have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of themselves. Our pupils are constantly encouraged to flourish and *'let their light shine'* (Matthew 5:16). We believe that spirituality offers our children a 'mirror' to reflect on their role in school, and on life's big questions. Pupils are encouraged to be aware of, and acknowledge, their own inner life of thoughts, feelings and emotions. This is an important part of developing self-respect, a sense of identity and self-worth. In turn, this enables us to value and respect others. Pupils will be given a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experiences.

Impact:

As we encourage all to use the Spirituality/prayer/quiet spaces in school, children explore their own spirituality and have space and time to think, process and connect with themselves. Our curriculum develops pupils' self-awareness, confidence, understanding and application of personal values and beliefs. Through our daily school life at Hawkesley, children build respectful friendships and demonstrate compassion towards others, through our values that are referred to throughout the day. My Happy Mind sessions allow children to explore their own thoughts and the way in which they can control their own emotions. Children connect with themselves by understanding what makes them who they are and how to approach new or challenging experiences with calmness and emotional peace.

OTHERS (love, friendship and the connection with others)

Implementation:

In reference to one of our school tenets, we strive to develop our pupils' appreciation of what it means to be a part of a 'Learning Community'. Humans are social beings, and we want to ensure our children can develop and form strong, healthy relationships in effective and appropriate ways. We encourage this by exploring the school's Christian vision and associated values. By doing this, pupils develop an understanding of the value of difference and diversity through their interactions and engagement with others.

Impact:

At Hawkesley, children experience personal growth in the strong, social relationships they build with others, recognising them as people of worth and value. This includes them developing a sense of community. Collective Worship, curriculum lessons, Social and Emotional lessons via My Happy Mind, break and lunchtimes and extra-curricular activities, such as clubs and breakfast club, where children develop their relationships, all impact their connections with others. Our children develop an awareness of, and respect for, other people's beliefs and faiths and the ability to articulate their own during R.E lessons. As we encourage positive interactions, pupils show that they are approachable, showing good friendship skills, having respect for others, and accepting and embracing differences that enable us, and others, to develop a sense of belonging. Pupils connect with others in school and enjoy being with each other, often leading to spiritual connections being made. Our children show an understanding of themselves and others, enjoying the feeling of belonging. This creates peace and security for all.

NATURE (joy of the natural world)

Implementation:

In Genesis 1:31 it is written, *'And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.'* Christians believe in a God who is creator and sustainer. For us at Hawkesley, this means that Spirituality can be found through creation and the joy of our natural world, as we admire the splendor of His handiwork. We endeavour to give rich and fulfilling opportunities for our pupils to truly appreciate the beautiful world, in which we have the privilege to live, and to take nothing for granted, to be truly grateful, humble and respectful. Children have a natural sense of curiosity with the world around them, and how to make sense of it, therefore, we believe that this should be nurtured.

Impact:

Children make good use of the outdoors where they play freely and safely but also appreciate the beauty of the earth. Through outdoor learning, our children connect with the natural world around them which strengthens their spiritual connection with nature. Children enjoy nature walks to find natural resources and use them within their learning and Collective Worship. They explore areas locally, and further afield, during trips and visits, giving them the opportunity to take time to look at the beauty of the world around them, often causing moments of awe and wonder, and a connection with nature.

Arts, Culture and Sports (Joy in art, literature, culture and sport)

Implementation:

Opportunities throughout school life at Hawkesley provide enrichment activities to contribute towards children's connections with arts, culture and sports. Regular visits from artists ensure that children have opportunities to engage in large, collective pieces of artwork which are then displayed throughout our school. Music is a huge part of our school and a wonderful way for many to connect spiritually. We Sing the Faith daily during Collective Worship, and Services for Education provide weekly music sessions for Years 2-6, where all children learn to play a musical instrument. Rock Steady also visit weekly to work with Years 5-6, creating bands with groups of children. Music performances at school and in church give children the chance to sing and/or play together and share their passion with others. Drama is used across the curriculum and during Collective Worship, to enhance knowledge, deepen understanding and bring text to life. At Hawkesley, we plan visits to places of worship and embrace and celebrate different cultures such as Chinese New Year, Black History Month, etc... where there is an emphasis on activities to develop knowledge, whilst engaging children in the emotion involved in celebrating different cultures. Books about a range of cultures are available in our school library and in quiet areas around school. *'Live in harmony with one another.'* Romans 12:16. At Hawkesley, we promote active bodies and minds therefore the Fit4Sport coaches are a wonderful addition to our school. Sporting activities are provided at lunchtime and after school for children to engage in.

Impact:

At Hawkesley, children engage in a variety of arts, culture and sports, which spark their interests and ignite passion. Through these connections, children feel a strong sense of togetherness and fellowship. Any stress they feel is reduced and their well-being improved. Our children understand how the brain works and, using tools from My Happy Mind, the children improve their mindset by engaging in their interests. Through opportunities such as music, sports and exploring culture, children connect regularly with others; Singing the Faith during worship, interacting during sporting sessions and taking part in cultural celebrations. Celebrations of music and art during concerts, Collective Worships, displays and workshops give our children a sense of pride in their achievements and those of others. Through our children's engagement in arts, culture and sports, they are able to form a bond with others that is deep and personal based on similar values, beliefs, or interests.

A greater force (be this a belief in God(s) or awe and wonder in science and nature)

Implementation:

Daily Collective Worship provides the opportunity for our Hawkesley family to share experiences, ideas and further develop understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared. Our aim is to help our children find their gifts and the confidence to *'let their light shine'*. Opportunities are created for children to share and understand who they are and develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery and explore their personal faith. We provide opportunities to celebrate and reflect on the love of God for every individual. As a Christian school, we enable pupils to make the connections between the Biblical teachings of Christ and the life of the school and the wider community, and how these impact their understanding of themselves and their place within the world today.

Impact:

Children are given the space to self-initiate their journey through different 'doors' into a greater world with increased awareness. They exercise their imagination and creativity, appreciating the beauty in the world, being open to experiences of awe and wonder. Pupils become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative, during My Happy Mind and Collective Worship. Children feel a sense of belonging, especially when invited to sing or pray together. Through daily Collective Worship, pupils have space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They can participate in, or observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible and liturgy, and are introduced to different musical genres and traditions. Children take time for silence, stillness and prayer, using our designated spaces around school, to explore their faith or have moments for reflection.

SPIRITUALITY IN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective Worship is the beating heart of Hawkesley. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared. We support the whole school community to share this responsibility and to develop the shared language of spirituality. Opportunities are available to for all to develop spiritually in our supportive and nurturing school inspired by our vision and lived out through our Christian values.

During Collective Worship, there are opportunities for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. Collective Worship also provides a real sense of being present, which are often linked to invitations to pray and to Sing the Faith.

Through daily Collective Worship, pupils are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They are offered an understanding of worship by being invited to participate in, or observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, reading and reflection of the Bible and liturgy and are introduced to different musical hymns, songs and traditions. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect on, and empathise with, moments of disappointment or pain.

Pupils are given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. All pupils have the opportunity to serve during Collective Worship by leading a part of the worship or engaging in discussion and sharing their thoughts. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark seasonal Christian festivals and celebrations in the calendars of other faiths. In this way pupils are offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in Hawkesley is invitational, inspirational, and inclusive.

For Anglicans and Methodists, spirituality focuses on fellowship, with people worshipping together, through singing songs and hymns; prayers and bible readings; responses to the liturgy and through sacraments such as communion. This means that collective worship in church schools is the life-giving thread, weaving through all aspects of school life and it's community.

SPIRITUALITY IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school's approach to RE and spirituality. Learning activities in RE provide for the needs of all pupils, offering a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and world views, linking these to pupils' ideas of spirituality.

SPIRITUALITY WITHIN THE CURRICULUM

As a Church school, the teachings of the Bible guide and influence our practice. Being part of the Birmingham Diocesan Multi-Academy trust, we, like the other schools within our Multi-Academy Trust, work towards ensuring that pupils we serve experience, '*life in all its fullness.*' (John 10:10). We are committed to achieving this through empowering our children to '*Let your light shine*' (Matthew 5:16). Our curriculum's purpose is to develop the children's understanding, personality and gifts bestowed upon them by God for them to be a guiding light for others.

Every aspect of school life, including the curriculum, has been constructed around our school vision, which is underpinned by our four key tenants: *Greatness, Learning Community, Same but Different and the Golden Rule*. Our LIGHT acronym summarises our 18 school values and reminds our 'Hawkesley Family' to be the best version of themselves.

Love - show it in all you do

Integrity – making the right choices

Greatness – be your best

Honesty – be true to your words

Trust – to have faith in ourselves and others

Here at Hawkesley, we believe that every part of the curriculum has the potential for spiritual exploration and experiences. Here are some examples of spiritual connections and takeaways possible within our daily teaching:

- Mathematics - By making connections between numeracy skills and real life; for example, pie charts could compare how a child in Africa spends their day with how children in the UK spend their time. By considering pattern, order, symmetry and scale both man-made and in the natural world. By appreciating the beauty of shape and space.
- English - In responding to a poem, story or text; pupils can be asked 'I wonder what you think happens next?' 'How would you feel if you were the person in the story?' 'Where have you met these ideas before?' By appreciating the beauty of language. e.g., the joy or pain of words in a text.
- Science - By demonstrating openness to the fact that some answers cannot be provided by science. By creating opportunities for pupils to ask questions about how living things rely on and contribute to their environment.
- Art - By providing plenty of rich opportunities for pupils to explore both the spiritual dimension and natural phenomena.

- DT - By enjoying and celebrating personal creativity. By reviewing and evaluating created things.
- History - By considering how things would be different if the course of events had been different. By looking at local history and investigating the reasons why there is a landmark, building or museum. By speculating about how we mark important events from history and the people who shaped them.
- Geography - By using Google maps/world maps/atlas and asking pupils to imagine what it might be like to live in different parts of the world. By making links with history when exploring the environment and speculating on why the landscape is as it is. By comparing their lives with pupils living in other countries or other parts of the UK.
- Music - By allowing pupils to show their delight and curiosity in creating their own sounds. By making links between their learning in other curriculum areas with music being played as background. By considering how music makes one feel and can 'move us' deeply.
- PE - By delighting in movement and creativity, particularly when pupils can show spontaneity. By taking part in activities such as dance, games and gymnastics, that can help pupils to become more focused, connected and develop creativity. By being aware of one's own strengths and limitations.
- PSHE - By developing awareness of and responding to others' needs and wants. By exploring meaning and purpose for individuals and society. By developing resilience and inner strength. By valuing self as unique in the image of God. By cherishing relationships.
- MFL - By exploring the beauty of languages from around the world. By exploring the way language is constructed.

RECORDING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Local Academy Board review this policy in partnership with Senior Leaders and consider any views expressed by parents, children and staff in order to make any changes or recommendations. Recommendations are fed back to the full governing board and are then actioned as appropriate. Governors ensure that this policy is fully implemented, and that practice is consistent with the school's Christian vision, in line with the school's monitoring policy and schedule for governors.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Recognising that there are opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners in every aspect of our school life, every member of our staff team is committed to supporting spiritual growth wherever appropriate. Our spirituality lead is responsible for supporting and leading spiritual development in our school, including monitoring opportunities for spiritual growth in collective worship, the whole curriculum (including RE) and the general ethos of the school within daily life.

This role also includes:

- Ensuring personal knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by participating in CPD and sharing good practice
- Engaging children and staff in half-termly Collective Worship to develop understanding of Spirituality
- Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- Ensuring all staff are familiar with the shared language of Spirituality

- Monitoring the opportunities for spiritual growth through regular observations and learning walks in both formal and informal contexts, discussions with colleagues and pupil voice
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. ECTs and staff who are new to Hawkesley will receive training and support from the staff member identified as leading on spirituality. This policy is shared on the school's website and is part of the induction pack for new staff and new governors. This policy is reviewed every 3 years, or more frequently, as required.

RELATED POLICIES

The following policies should be read in conjunction with Developing Spirituality:

- Teaching and Learning
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Collective Worship
- Religious Education

These policies are available on our school website.

PUPIL VOICE

The children had the opportunity to discuss Spirituality during Collective Worship with their class teachers and senior leaders. Staff made the following notes from the children's discussions.

Year 1 – "We discussed emotions and the children talked about being happy or sad. Children talked about their hobbies and what they liked to do outside of school. They enjoyed the chance to share these with their classmates. We talked about having the opportunity to share what we love, for example, one child loves football and was able to bring in a trophy to share successes. We talked about understanding our emotions."

Year 2 – "We can find love, joy and happiness by: following the golden rule, sharing our joy, helping our friends, being kind, listening to and learning from others and being a VIP!"

Year 3 – "We talked about the importance of friendships and building connections with everyone and how important that is. We discussed the importance of recognising differences."

Year 4 – "We considered how to treat others how you would like to be treated. The children said that we just rely on nature, and we work as a team to maintain it. With nature, it is often that we take, take, take and we should be more mindful about giving back."

Year 5 – “We discussed lunch time sports clubs and how they make children feel connected to each other. How art is not just about painting or drawing pictures but also about books and films and the emotions that we can take from those experiences. Our culture is everything about ourselves and connects us to each other.”

Year 6 – “We considered the wider world, and what goes on around us that we do not always notice. We talked about what amazes the children. Child 1 said the seven wonders of the world. Child B said advances in technology. We talked about how amazing it is how animals adapt to their environments. Child C talked about the wonder of space. The children realised it is all about the bigger things in life and the things we do not always notice or sometimes take for granted.”

STAFF VOICE

“We are spiritual at Hawkesley. It runs through everything we do, whether we realise it or not.”

“Spirituality and love drive this school.”

“Children are beginning to understand spirituality – this is evident from the responses in Collective Worship which are very thoughtful, showing a deep level of insight.”

“I have a much better understanding of spirituality since joining Hawkesley through Collective Worship and staff meetings.”

“Spirituality is defined well so that staff have a clear understanding. Children are beginning to understand more about spirituality and are also beginning to make personal connections through My Happy Mind, RE and Collective Worship.”

“At Hawkesley, we give the children a range of experiences and opportunities that provide opportunities for spiritual moments.”

“When you attend Hawkesley, you are enabled to believe in yourself to go places, see things and achieve what you want in life. There are no limits.”

“I believe that children are given chances to experience awe and wonder.”

“A spiritual moment I had recently was observing a staff member with a group of our youngest children using a calm reading space in our school. They were interacting with each other and the environment beautifully. Everyone was at peace and at ease with one another.”

“I have experienced a sense of ‘a special something’ in this school.”

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