



## LEWKNOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Spiritual Development is the Heartbeat of Our Curriculum

#### Christian Vision

Building strong foundations for a happy and successful life

Like the wise man who built his house on rock (Matthew 7: 24-27), we seek God's wisdom to enable us to nurture our school community so that all can flourish and achieve their best in every aspect of school life.

We believe children live up to their potential and flourish if they are happy, have fun, feel nurtured and grow from a foundation of strong Christian values. We value spirituality and the holistic development of the child. The school has a clear and secure understanding of spiritual development that is distinguishable from social, moral and cultural development and is shared by all stakeholders. Our role as educators is to guide the children in our care along the path of life. Our strong focus on nurturing individual talents ensures happy, curious and confident pupils who have a zest for life and learning.

As children grow in their understanding of spirituality and values are embedded, they become secure enough to make mistakes and therefore move on with their spiritual learning and academic growth.

In our school:

Spirituality is about being aware of yourself and the world around you – the wonder as well as the hardship;

Spirituality is about the 'wow' factor;

Spirituality is about values and beliefs - the big questions in life;

Spirituality is about emotions;

Spirituality is the heartbeat of our school. It is how we understand ourselves and our place in the world: recognising strengths, weaknesses and having the confidence to challenge ourselves.

We care for the local and global community and our Christian values underpin our learning and encourage our children to ask, reflect on and answer 'big questions'.

Aspects of Spirituality	School Opportunities
A sense of the mystery of life:	<p>Rich, deep and inspirational curriculum – provides pupils with the character education to lead a full and flourishing life</p> <p>Reading - poetry/stories/drama</p> <p>Relationships, sex and health education</p> <p>Challenges in maths - problem-solving</p> <p>‘Big’ questions - RE/philosophy/science. Spiritual and ethical issues are explored through high level questioning skills</p> <p>Opportunities for children to respond creatively across a range of subjects</p> <p>Reflection areas - inside and outside</p> <p>Sacred spaces - visits and church</p> <p>Visits to places and visitors into school</p> <p>Encountering different faiths and diverse traditions (multi-faith and multi-cultural world)</p>
A sense of choice, decision making and personal responsibility:	<p>Children and staff work together to set expectations at the start of each school year. Classroom and school responsibilities</p> <p>Code of Conduct is reviewed annually and shared with all stakeholders</p> <p>Creative curriculum - arts, DT, computing, music, PSHE, Jigsaw</p> <p>Self-evaluation – eg against success criteria</p> <p>Group work - for example, peer-marking</p> <p>Behaviour choices - how behaviour impacts on others</p> <p>Opportunities to choose work and extend learning</p> <p>Philosophy</p> <p>Designing and making models</p> <p>Pupil voice groups – school council, litter heroes/eco-warriors, House captains</p> <p>Leading collective worship – pupil voice</p> <p>Global citizens and citizens of the community (courageous advocates)</p> <p>Older children lead playground fun activities</p> <p>Children lead e-safety assemblies</p> <p>Children learn life skills – IMPS, Junior Citizen, cycling proficiency</p>
A sense of awe and wonder:	<p>Visits to places of interest: theatre/churches/gudwara/mosque/cathedrals/parks/museums/university buildings/Ridgeway/nature reserves etc</p> <p>Exciting and relevant curriculum that enables pupils to flourish</p> <p>Hooks and starters to lessons which inspire children</p> <p>Church visits</p> <p>Transformation Evening</p> <p>Awareness of the world – ActionAid, Children in Need</p> <p>Visitors to school</p> <p>Worship times</p> <p>Resources</p> <p>Real life experiences</p> <p>Forest School After School Care Club</p> <p>Science investigations/experiments</p>
A sense of awareness of there being	<p>Lessons led by our vicar Peter Waterson</p> <p>Reflection</p> <p>‘Big questions’</p> <p>Stories Worship times</p>

something more to life than meets the eye:	Relationships Christian Symbols The Arts Philosophy/RE lessons
A sense of love for the outside:	Play area / EYFS Off-site visits / walks / residential Run-a-mile Gardening club Art club Sketching Creativity/reflection days Sports week Activities at lunchtimes Wake-Up, Shake-Up Science walks
A sense of pattern, sequence and order:	Maths – maths mastery – confidence building through problem-solving, and the development of creative and deeper thinking skills Science/French/Sport/Dance The Arts Music (all children learn to read music and play a musical instrument in KS2) Poetry and Prayers Behaviour policy Anti-bullying policy Broad, varied and exciting curriculum Collective Worship – seasons of the church year A school week - timetables Daily timetable/routines/visual timetables
A sense of enquiry and open mindedness:	Science Philosophy for Children RE lessons 'Big questions' Circle time Show and Tell Self-evaluation/ peer assessment Christian values of tolerance and respect British Values
A sense of life's joys and achievements:	School choir and productions Celebration Collective Worship Genuine achievement – high standards Headteacher awards SMART AWARDS Children planning and leading Collective Worship Compliments- UJ kind messages to others Random Acts of Kindness Month Friendship Tree Christian celebrations/personal celebrations Leavers awards/end of year awards Ambassadors - Year 6

	<p>Inspirational speakers and debating</p> <p>Fun curriculum</p> <p>Humour in lessons</p> <p>High levels of attendance</p>
<p>A sense of disappointment and failure, suffering and pain:</p>	<p>Pets</p> <p>Jesus – the crucifixion</p> <p>Disasters in news</p> <p>Collective Worship stories (Bible and multi-cultural)</p> <p>Circle time</p> <p>Supporting charities</p> <p>Growth Mindset and Characteristics of Effective Learning</p> <p>Understanding that sometimes bad things happen to people</p>
<p>A sense of others as feeling, thinking people</p>	<p>Relationships with others</p> <p>Resolving conflicts – reflection room</p> <p>Respect for each other – we are all unique and special</p> <p>Caring for each other’s feelings</p> <p>Circle Time</p> <p>Worship Time - respecting</p> <p>Christian Values – sharing/giving/respecting</p> <p>Staff modelling – taking turns, confident learners</p> <p>Behaviour policy – clear rules, rewards and consequences</p> <p>Global links – other than ourselves</p> <p>Buddy system</p> <p>Playground buddies</p>
<p>A sense of empathy with others:</p>	<p>Visits to the elderly at local care homes</p> <p>Random Acts of Kindness months</p> <p>Anger management</p> <p>Stories</p> <p>Role play</p> <p>Supporting charities</p> <p>Sportsmanship</p> <p>Emotional intelligence</p> <p>Provision mapping</p> <p>Buddy bench / buddy reading sessions</p>
<p>A sense of silence and reflection:</p>	<p>Well-being activities – quiet moments, reflection times, yoga, silent reading, quiet working</p> <p>Prayer spaces</p> <p>Reflection room /spaces</p> <p>Planning and preparation time for teachers</p> <p>Music to enter Collective Worship</p> <p>Background music while working in the classroom – English, maths, RE, PSHE</p> <p>Collective Worship is a time for stillness and reflection about oneself, Jesus and others</p> <p>Worship time daily</p> <p>Thinking time for children and staff</p> <p>Calm school</p> <p>Professional development time for all staff to reflect on practice</p>

<p>A sense of self-worth and the worth of others</p>	<p>Effort and achievement celebrated in displays  High academic standards  School productions and choir performances (elderly care homes)  Circle time - discussion  Global days/themed weeks  Self/Peer marking  Ethos statement and school values  All children discussed regularly in staff meetings – learning styles  Teaching about Jesus and Christian Values  Celebration Collective Worship  Staff knowing and understanding all children in the school well  Classroom rewards for learning and behaviour  Celebration assembly / Headteacher awards  Weekly SMART awards  Dojos  Social skills groups/social stories</p>
<p>A sense of self-confidence in expressing inner thoughts:</p>	<p>Circle time  Philosophy  Broad and varied curriculum  Leading Collective Worship  Values of perseverance, hope, integrity, wisdom and friendship  Performance  Weekly writing tasks  Debating  Prayer</p>
<p>A sense of the joy in life:</p>	<p>Creative curriculum – real experiences  Sports/The Arts/Clubs  School’s community concert  Humour  Partnership and county sport competitions  Theme days and weeks  Productions and class assemblies  Children leading assemblies and worship  FoLS events- discos, fairs, film nights  Parent assemblies – celebrating mothers, fathers, grandparents  Christingle  Birthday celebrations  School choir</p>

### Sources

Spiritual Development, Interpretations of Spiritual Development in the Classroom (Church of England)