

JENNETT'S PARK

CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Spirituality Policy

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*Empowering our children to flourish and achieve under God's love
To live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)*

Introduction

At Jennett's Park, we recognise that developing the spirituality of our pupils, adults and school community is a fundamental aspect of enabling all to flourish. Spirituality is difficult to verbalise as spiritual development is a personal and unique experience and differs from person to person. Spirituality is a journey of discovery. For some Christians in church, spirituality is about developing a deeper understanding of and connection with God.

Rainbow Promise

Our Rainbow Promise underpins everything we do at school. Just as the Rainbow was a sign of God's promise to Noah that from that moment God would enable Noah and the people of the earth to flourish and experience life in all its fullness. So as a school community we promise to do our best to enable all the pupils and adults of our school to flourish academically and professionally so that they might reach their potential.

The Rainbow is also a symbol of the diversity of our school community, but as a church school we recognise that we are all created and valued by God, and so as a school community we commit to care for and value each other.

The dove symbolises our need to persevere in some aspects of life as it is not always the first time we find success. It was not the first time that Noah had tried to find dry land and so we much seek strength within ourselves and from God to achieve.

The values which form part of this Rainbow Promise and which we all choose to display in our everyday behaviour are:



The Rainbow Promise



These are our Values we try to live each day

♥ Love

♦ Honesty

Respect

/ Peace

☞ Forgiveness

⌚ Patience

⊕ Support

☺ Kindness &

Joy



Promises

Our vision as a school, is to have every child achieving their greatest potential academically, socially and spiritually. We say we wish to empower children to flourish and achieve under God's Love and that we will Live life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

Our whole school community lives out our core Christian Values within the Rainbow Promise through everything we say and do in school. These are our Promises to keep to our children to be able to serve the common good with our work as part of the Church of England.

At Jennett's Park we are:	Our promises:
Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills	To help grow resourceful, resilient and reflective children who are equipped with the skills, knowledge and tenacity empower themselves, their learning throughout their lives.
Educating for Hope and Aspiration	To inspire and enrich lives beyond current opportunities and experiences in order to open minds to the potential their future holds
Educating for Community and Living Well Together	To be a multi-cultural, inclusive community of individuals loved by God who feel valued and involved where we create qualities of character to enable people to flourish.
Educating for Dignity and Respect	That children might know how much that they are loved and valued by so that they might show dignity and respect for themselves and others by carefully and safely thinking through their actions.

1. The Legal Framework: Links to OFSTED and SIAMS expectations

The OFSTED School Inspection Handbook states:

Inspectors will evaluate the effectiveness of the school's provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. This is a broad concept that can be seen across the school's activities but draws together many of the areas covered by the personal development judgement.

Provision for the spiritual development of pupils includes developing their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, 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.

The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule for Schools and Inspectors, includes the question:

- How well does the school support all pupils in their spiritual development, enabling all pupils to flourish? (Strand 2)

2. School Statement on Spirituality

Jennett's Park CE Primary School is a community woven together to flourish and achieve. As a church school we are guided by the Christian faith and values, however, we are an inclusive environment that enables all children and adults to engage in spiritual development for all and to "live life in all its fullness". Spiritual development is interwoven throughout the curriculum, through prayer, stillness, worship and reflection. Spiritual reflection is not dependent on religious affiliation but aims to embrace fundamental questions about the meaning and purpose of life and to nurture ourselves, one another, the world around us and beyond.

Most Christians believe that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God, like pots made by a potter-

"We are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand" (Isaiah 64:8).

However, in life things/events/ obstacles happen that impact on the physical 'pot' of life and create cracks that provide a glimpse of something 'beyond' the tangible. Some Christians may view this an opportunity to relate to the Divine Creator God. Cracks may be caused when something amazing and breath-taking happens that the pot expands and cracks – the joys of life. Cracks may happen when something challenging happens– the joys of life and threatens the comfort of everyday life. Cracks can also happen in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday – the joys of life, when a moment of stillness, a pause or prayer creates a crack in the normal, physical everyday life. During these moments there is spiritual opportunity.

Kintsugi, the Japanese arts of mending broken ceramics with golden joinery/ glue, creates something that has been broken into something even more beautiful. Using this metaphor, the joys and sorrows of life offer the possibility of cracks that are filled with gold and make the pot even more beautiful. The gold in the cracks reflect a little of the wonder of spirituality.

This language of spirituality begins from a Christian understanding and we use this to form a shared language of spirituality at Jennett's Park.

3. Aims

Jennett's Park CE Primary School (VA) aims to provide a safe, happy and open learning environment for children to be able to spiritually flourish.

With our distinct Christian vision, 'empowering our children to flourish and achieve under God's love (John 10:10). Live life in all its fullness' it is the driver for spirituality at Jennett's Park. Our school vision, values and aims as outlined above encompass the development and growth of spirituality.

We strive to work with our local community to develop and live the Christian values of mutual respect, reconciliation and forgiveness as we meet the challenges of life at school, in the local community and beyond. Our vision as a school, is to have every child achieving their greatest potential academically, socially and spiritually. We say we wish to empower children to flourish and achieve under God's Love and that we will Live life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

To achieve this, we work with our children in building their confidence as well as developing their ability to challenge themselves and see that they can be more than they think they can be. We aim to develop enquiring minds, a high self-esteem and a true feeling of self-worth, helping everyone to feel valued for their individual and collaborative contributions. Children develop an awareness and respect of themselves and others valuing uniqueness, difference and diversity, and develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life.

We explore relationships with ourselves, others, the wider natural world and beyond whilst offering the invitation to relate to God.

Everyone is given an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of school life and we help all the children to prepare for their next steps in their life-long learning journey, by developing their abilities to experiment, investigate, take risks, challenge and make informed choices and develop an appreciation to be part of their

community. Whilst enabling an awareness, respect, compassion, creativity, integrity, curiosity and courageous advocacy.

This builds upon developing and reflecting awe and wonder around them and caring for our natural world.

4. Organisation

The spiritual growth and development of pupils is enhanced through every aspect of school life. We have identified opportunities for spiritual well-being through the curriculum, specific opportunities and activities and our ethos and vision and lived out through our Christian values.

We support the whole school community to share this responsibility and to develop the shared language of spirituality. Every classroom has a candle time area for quiet, reflective and contemplative thoughts. We have an outdoor space for spiritual reflection and a specific indoor 'take a now moment' reflection area.

5. Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective worship is central to the life of Jennett's Park CE Primary School. Worship offers the pupils and staff in our school an opportunity to reflect on values and issues in the context of our Christian vision and ethos. It provides the opportunity to share experiences, ideas and understanding with the importance of reflection, stillness and a sense of being present ('now' moments) and is explicitly shared. Our school is a community that celebrates religious, cultural and ethnic diversity and encourages dialogue and understanding. We believe that we can all learn from each other and that collective worship is an entitlement for all. In worship we create the opportunity to explore the place of faith in each of our lives, and in the communities in which we live.

We warmly invite all members of our school community to join our worship. Pupils, staff and parents of all faiths and none are welcome to worship which is an expression of our distinctive Christian vision. Daily acts of worship provide a space for observing, experiencing and participating through prayer, practices, Christian and inter-faith stories, reflection of the Bible and liturgy and songs. Opportunities to reflect on the 'wows' of life such as the awe and wonder and the beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise of the 'ow' moments of pain and/or disappointment. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark seasonal Christian and interfaith festivals and celebrations in the liturgical calendars. Our principles of worship mean it is inclusive and contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils. It is invitational and respects the dignity of all participants, it is inspiring and experiential.

6. 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.

In Jennett's Park CE Primary School, RE plays an important role in expressing the Christian vision of the school. RE reflects the ethos and values that are held and promotes understanding of people of all faiths and none. RE has the same high status as any other subject and contributes to the overall development of our pupils from all backgrounds and traditions.

We aim here at Jennett's Park are to ensure we live out our vision: Empowering our children to flourish and achieve under God's love. This comes from the passage in the bible where Jesus says: I have come to let you live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). Our Rainbow Promise underpins everything we do at school. Just as the Rainbow was a sign of God's promise to Noah that from that moment God would enable Noah and the people of the earth to flourish and experience life in all its fullness. So as a school community we promise to do our best to enable all the pupils and adults of our school to flourish academically and professionally so that they might reach their potential. The Rainbow is also a symbol of the diversity of our school community, but as a church school we recognise that we are all created and valued by God, and so as a school community we commit to care for and value each other. The dove symbolises our need to persevere in some aspects of life as it is not always the first time we find success. It was not the first time that Noah had tried to find dry

land and so we much seek strength within ourselves and from God to achieve. All children and young people have a right to a primary education, which should be free.

Our aim is that learning at Jennett's Park CE Primary School should empower children. It should celebrate success and progress for all, and be part of our role as heart of the local community. The 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, informed and balanced dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews, linking these to pupils' ideas of spirituality and the language of wows, ows and nows where appropriate.

For further details, please refer to Jennett's Park Religious Education Policy and The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement.

7. Spirituality within the Curriculum

Jennett's Park Christian vision of **Empowering our children to flourish and achieve under God's love John 10:10, Live life in all its fullness** is the driver for our curriculum design which inspires pupils' spiritual growth. Drawing on the language of wows, ows and nows, conversations around spirituality will be included in classroom teaching when appropriate from Early Years through to Year 6.

Maths Points to consider:

- The wonder of number pattern, pattern and order
- What cannot be measured? For example, love
- What cannot be accurately counted? For example, the difference an act of kindness makes.
 - Infinity and nothing
- Shape and regularity
- Truth, certainty and likelihood
- The universality of mathematics over time and space
- The wonder of numbers, formulae and equations

Literacy points to consider:

- Empathy with authors and the characters in stories and plays
- The appreciation of the beauty in language
- Emotions and sentiments in writing and speech
- Heroes and heroines in literature
- Imagining oneself as someone else
- Escaping into other worlds through literature
- The element of wonder in literature
- The values of great, creative work

Reading and writing:

- Exploring spirituality questions through general questions e.g.
 - o What inspired you in this text?
 - o How did a character cope with a challenge in life?
 - o How did the actions of a character surprise you?

How do you think you would have responded to that wow or ow moment?

- o What do you think makes these words so powerful/beautiful/painful? What words would you have used?
- Showcasing and valuing writing

MFL Points to consider:

- Exploring the importance of language learning and its effects e.g. communicating on holiday or welcoming and comforting a stranger in our country/ school/ community.
- Noticing the feeling of communicating with someone in a new language
 - Noticing the feeling of learning something new about our world

Geography Points to consider:

- The awe and wonder of physical geography
- The way of discovering different physical regions do not provide the same opportunities
- Opportunities to respond and take responsibility in a challenging world
 - Wonder at the diversity of environments and people
 - Questions about the care of the environment
 - World (economic) development
 - Empathy with people from other parts of the world, the beliefs behind particular causes and campaigns and overcoming stereotypes.

History Points to consider:

- Exploring and making connections of historical events and words and ways
- Providing opportunity to explore future decisions and choices
 - Being part of history
 - Handling artefacts and resources and experiences and trips
 - Influential events and people
 - The commitment of significant people in history
 - The nature and importance of invention and exploration
 - Empathy with people from other times in history

PE Points to consider:

- Celebrating the achievement of a new skill/ achievement
 - Exploring feelings of pride, movement, perseverance and achievement
 - The feeling of being in the 'now' moment-completely focused on a task, activity or challenge
 - Having an awareness of one's own strength and limitations.
 - Being a team member and sportsmanship
 - Extremes of skill, endurance and achievements
 - Emotion in sport

Science Points to consider:

- Delight in discovering how things work
- Opportunities for awe and wonder
- Exploring what questions cannot be answered by science
- Exploring and questioning of beginning, creation and evolution
- The universe and beyond
- Discovering the limits of experimentation
 - Regularity and order in science
- Beliefs in science and the faith of scientists
- The impact of scientific achievements
 - Understanding of varying viewpoints of RE and Science

In the Creative Arts (Art and Design, Music, Drama and Dance) Points to consider:

- The work of creative artists of varying times and places
 - Expressing, interpreting and exploring deep feelings, emotion and profound beliefs
 - Artistic creativity
- The effects of the arts on emotions and senses
- Skill in creation and performance
- Personal response and preference

Music Points to consider:

- Exploring styles of music that ignite your soul and explore styles that have the opposite effect.
- To explore how music encourages creativity, delight, and curiosity

- Explore the wows and ows in the stories behind the artists
- Celebrating and respecting different responses to art

In Design and Technology Points to consider:

- What motivates designers and their decisions, e.g for monetary gains or improving and helping people?
- Discovering how something works
- Appreciating genius
- Beauty in design
- Perseverance to solve problems
- Personal achievement
- Learning from others and nature

In Computing Points to consider:

- The wonder of worldwide instant communication
- The speed of the growth of knowledge
- The accessibility of knowledge and contact with other people worldwide

PSHCE & RSE Points to consider:

- Exploration of topics such as relationships, feelings & attitudes, keeping safe and 'your body' and making natural links with the wows, ows and nows
- Ideas of honesty and sensitivity needed for gentle reflection

All Subjects Points to consider:

- The celebration of achievement and success
- To support the ows of difficulty and frustrations in situations
- Expectations, rules and routines and happy, learning environment to maximise the everyday moment of concentration and being in the present, creating a sense of calm and completeness within the school environment.
 - Visiting places of interest and immersing oneself into the learning
 - admire and wonder at the natural environment and human creative efforts
 - personal relationships and experiences in challenging situations
 - Creating community cohesion links at a local, national and global level
 - Engagement in activities that promote courageous advocacy
 - Participation in a wide range of events and activities, involving a range of outside agencies, coaches, etc.

8. Spirituality within the Ethos of the Daily Life of the School

At Jennett's Park, spiritual growth is developing the awareness of oneself, others and the world around them. There are spiritual opportunities interwoven throughout each and every day to reflect as children experience delight, disappointment, awe and wonder and therefore these moments are explored and given time for pupils to respond to appropriately.

9. Provision

Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural development is a vital part of education, as it helps children and young people to develop into well-rounded, thoughtful, and respectful individuals. By promoting SMSC, schools can help students develop a sense of identity and purpose, as well as an awareness of their place in society. This, in turn, can help to promote social cohesion and understanding, as well as contributing to the overall well-being and happiness of students.

The Spiritual Development of children is shown by their:

- ability to be open, aware and reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings, values and beliefs and faiths.
- encompass respect, compassion, integrity, curiosity and courageous advocacy.
- a sense of awe and wonder in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- to be inspired and use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- opportunities to reflect upon their experiences and spiritual journey
- showcase skills and language to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life.

These are some of the areas that contribute to our spiritual learning in school: -

Collective Worship

Candle Time

SpaceMakers

Theo's Garden

Our Curriculum

'Wow, Ow and Now'

Spiritual Development	
Provision	How it is evidenced
Whole school Vision and Values Acts of Collective Worship and monthly themes Spacemakers Opportunities for quiet reflection and 'take a now moment' Outdoor opportunities and education All Curriculum opportunities Religious Education curriculum	RE and PSHEC curriculum plans, include a multi-faith approach based upon the Oxfordshire SACRE document. Whole school assemblies and celebrations Liturgical calendar special times e.g., Harvest, Christmas and Easter celebrations Visits and experiences from faith groups and worship Opportunities for reflection upon learning, experiences and self-awareness Outdoor learning Residential visits Child led worship

We support children to:

Children are given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of spiritual experiences and their unique spiritual journey. Examples of spiritual experiences include:

- Exploring curiosity and questions
- Opportunities for awe and wonder
- A sense of connection, belonging, importance and self-awareness
- Awareness of the world around them and their community
- Prayer and acts of worship
- An understanding of well-being, worth and purposefulness

The school has developed a climate within which all children can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected; accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals.

- Shared language of Spirituality through ow, wow and now

10. Roles and Responsibilities

Spirituality is a fundamental part of development. Ensuring there are opportunities to enhance and enrich the spiritual well-being of learners in every aspect of our school life, every member of our staff team is committed to support the spiritual growth wherever appropriate.

11. Staff Development and Training

At Jennett's Park we ensure that all staff, receive appropriate training, opportunities and are well informed to enhance their professional development. New members of staff, including ECTs, will receive training and support.

This policy is shared on the school's website and is part of the induction pack for new staff and new governors. With specific information on Collective Worship, please refer to our Collective Worship policy.