



St Nicholas Church of England Primary Academy

“Learning, loving and encouraging through Christ.”

St Nicholas provides a welcoming, inclusive and aspirational learning environment at the heart of its community. We nurture, encourage and support all children, adults and their families to be the best as God intended. Following God’s example of love and trust, we develop resilience and creativity in all we do.

Spiritual Development at the Heart of the Curriculum

Definition of Spirituality in our school:

‘Spirituality is the recognition of your soul, the soul in others and that there is something greater than ourselves’

Aspects of Spirituality	School opportunities	Educating for Life in All its Fullness	School Improvement
A sense of the mystery of life	Geography, Science, Number – links to real life Literacy – Poetry / texts Sex Education / Life cycles Mystery of number Unanswerable questions / questioning Intrigue and curiosity Staff ‘journeying’ with pupils RE Children’s questioning Unanswerable/ ‘big’ questions allow opportunity to reflect & philosophise	Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills: <i>For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge & understanding</i> Proverbs 2:6 How does this link to the school’s vision and mission? Our children are ‘inspired with a love of learning’.	Sacred spaces outside (ongoing) Learning with open eyes Actively planning for and finding the sense of mystery RSE
A sense of the human capacity for choice, decision making and personal responsibility	Behaviour choices in and out of classroom Opportunities to choose creative responses to work Young Sports Leaders / Sports Crew Worship Team PE Group / Team work Play Home Learning Y4 Eco-group Clean Ship LIONS Group Meeting targets Self-evaluation in learning Librarians Reading buddies	Educating for Community and Living Well Together: <i>‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.’</i> Deuteronomy 6:5 How does this link to the school’s vision and mission? Our children ‘empower others to do the same’.	Continue to develop independence in learning and in practical life skills ‘House’ opportunities Choice of how, where and when to pray Community links / choosing to support those who have needs Curriculum-themed days Teachers’ planning and teaching style
A sense of awe and wonder	Everywhere – small things and big things Element of discovery Use of all senses Awareness of world IT innovations Visitors to school school links / Visits e.g. Y6 Residential / Lille France / Chernobyl pupils Visits to churches and other places of worship Eco Council & Wildlife area	Educating for Hope and Aspiration: <i>‘That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ’</i> Colossians 2:2 How does this link to the school’s vision and mission? We ‘provide a welcoming, inclusive and aspirational learning environment at the heart of its community.’	Embracing and seizing ‘wow’ moments Sacred spaces
A sense of transcendence & an awareness of there being something	Using the language of ‘God’, ‘prayer’ etc. Stilling Imagination Reflection - I wonder Not always an answer	Educating for Hope and Aspiration: ‘Glory to God in the highest,	Displays / posters / outdoor environment Exploring symbols

<p>more to life than meets the eye</p>	<p>Stories Relationships Prayer Art work e.g. remembrance RE visits Cathedral Schools Day</p>	<p>And on earth peace among men' Luke 2:14</p> <p>How does this link to the school's vision and mission?</p> <p>We '...develop resilience and creativity in all we do.'</p>	
<p>A reflective attitude to the natural world</p>	<p>Recognising the impact of the natural world on human nature Celebrating our rural location Play area / conservation area / field Off-site visits / walks / residential visits / wildlife trust Wildlife area Eco –issues / Fairtrade / water garden / Zero Waste project Displays / flowers Pattern in animals and nature Photographs / pictures / class books / art / sketch work Eco-team Creativity / creation stories AT ALL TIMES – INSIDE / OUTSIDE – VALUE ALL THINGS</p>	<p>Educating for Dignity and Respect:</p> <p><i>'And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good'</i> Genesis 1:31</p> <p>How does this link to the school's vision and mission?</p> <p>Our school is a place 'where everyone is understood and respected.'</p>	<p>Use of School grounds Eco Club Development of Beach school Development of pond / wildlife area</p>
<p>A sense of pattern, sequence and order</p>	<p>Animals and the natural world – life cycles Dance / Music Language Class Routine Maths and Science Organised and well managed classrooms Christian Year / festivals Making connections within the curriculum Extra-curricular</p>	<p>Educating for Community and Living Well Together:</p> <p>'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth' ... 'And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.' Genesis 1:1 and 1:31</p> <p>How does this link to the school's vision and mission?</p> <p>Through the development of leadership at all levels, 'We nurture, encourage and support all'</p>	<p>Bringing the children's attention' to pattern and sequence (teaching for meaning) School tidiness and organisation Improving attendance for some children</p>
<p>A spirit of enquiry and open mindedness</p>	<p>Circle time / speaking and listening / show and tell Higher order questioning / topic questions Teaching for Mastery maths Encourage time to ask questions Own research Self-evaluation / assessment Interfaith Learning Days / Canterbury places of worship visit Appreciating other people's points of view Personal writing targets Inference through reading Chernobyl / France links</p>	<p>Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills:</p> <p><i>'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.'</i> Romans 12:2</p> <p>How does this link to the school's vision and mission?</p> <p>'With spiritual development at the heart of the school, our children are inspired with a love of learning'.</p>	<p>Encouraging children to ASK more questions Further develop partner work and mixed ability pairings</p>
<p>A sense of life's joys and achievements</p>	<p>Celebration assemblies / Awards / Show and tell / News Recognising and appreciating special moments Celebrating birthdays / special occasions of others – gifts Inspirational speakers Fun and laughter / smiles ALL THE TIME High standards = genuine achievement John 10:10 "Live life in all its fullness" Appreciating others' achievements Personal targets Headteacher awards ClassDojo tokens / house points</p>	<p>Educating for Dignity and Respect:</p> <p><i>'Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.'</i> Proverbs 8:30-31</p> <p>How does this link to the</p>	<p>Pupils leading celebration assemblies Worship Team leading Worship every term 'Be the Best you can'</p>

		<p>school's vision and mission?</p> <p>We enable our children 'to flourish and embrace their fullest individual potential'.</p>	
<p>An awareness of disappointment and failure, suffering and pain, decay and loss</p>	<p>E.g. bereavement or illness; pets dying or ill; flowers, leaves; Jesus Disasters – earthquakes, tsunami, bombings, floods, famine, drought</p> <p>Adults and children leaving</p> <p>Circle time</p> <p>History / Science / Stories / RE</p> <p>Global School Partnership</p> <p>Supporting charities</p> <p>Emotional resilience</p> <p>Mental health and well-being: policy and practice</p> <p>Christian values encouraging empathy and compassion</p> <p>Current affairs e.g. First News</p> <p>House competitions</p> <p>Child protection / safeguarding</p> <p>High expectations in all things and a positive attitude to 'failure'; we learn at the point at which we fail – challenging the Most Able</p>	<p>Educating for Dignity and Respect:</p> <p><i>'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'</i></p> <p>Colossians 3:12</p> <p>How does this link to the school's vision and mission?</p> <p>The school is a place 'We nurture, encourage and support all children, adults and their families to be the best as God intended.'</p>	<p>Current affairs</p> <p>WW1 centenary remembrance project</p> <p>Develop resilience, empathy and independence</p>
<p>A sense of others as feeling, thinking persons</p>	<p>Relationships with others – playtime, all times throughout day</p> <p>Resolving conflicts as they happen – restorative action</p> <p>Sharing, giving in, taking turns, respecting, working in pairs / groups Inclusion / SEN</p> <p>Respect for each other – unique and special</p> <p>Allowing time to think / feel</p> <p>Caring for each other's feelings</p> <p>Circle Time / Worship Time</p> <p>Christian values</p> <p>Mutual support and care for staff Mixed-age groupings</p> <p>Global school links – Chernobyl / France</p> <p>Friendship seat</p> <p>Community / charity</p>	<p>Educating for Dignity and Respect:</p> <p><i>'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'</i></p> <p>Leviticus 19:18</p> <p>How does this link to the school's vision and mission?</p> <p>The school is a place 'We nurture, encourage and support all children, adults and their families to be the best as God intended.'</p>	<p>Break down any racial / gender stereotyping</p> <p>Developing active listening skills and empathy</p>
<p>An increasing ability to empathise with others</p>	<p>Encouraging children to imagine how it would feel to be hurt / suffering Drama / role play</p> <p>Open the Book RE visits</p> <p>Inclusion / SEN / Accessibility</p> <p>Use opportunities as they arise</p> <p>Social stories</p> <p>Learning buddies</p> <p>Challenge for able pupils</p> <p>Good sportsmanship</p> <p>Emotional intelligence</p> <p>Worship times / songs</p> <p>Global school links – Chernobyl and France</p> <p>Supporting charities</p>	<p>Educating for Dignity and Respect:</p> <p><i>'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.'</i></p> <p>Ephesians 4:32</p> <p>How does this link to the school's vision and mission?</p> <p>We enable our children 'to flourish and embrace their fullest individual potential as God intended'.</p>	<p>Residential / visits to cities that are culturally and socially different</p> <p>Can the children "walk the walk" in daily life?</p>
<p>A sense of the quality of silence and reflection</p>	<p>Ideally everywhere and anywhere</p> <p>Wildlife area</p> <p>PPA time</p> <p>Leave space + provide space</p> <p>Assessment for learning informing lesson planning</p> <p>Worship time / personal connection with God</p> <p>Listening</p> <p>Quiet / calm working environments</p> <p>Teaching skills that allow time to think / respond / evaluate</p> <p>A calm / colourful / stimulating school environment</p> <p>Prayer places – in library / classroom reflection areas</p> <p>GIVE CHILDREN TIME and silence; teachers too</p> <p>Staff room</p> <p>music</p> <p>Play Therapy</p>	<p>Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills:</p> <p><i>'Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!'</i></p> <p>Psalms 46:10</p> <p>How does this link to the school's vision and mission?</p> <p>A sense of silence and reflection is instilled 'so we develop resilience and creativity in all we do'.</p>	<p>Sacred spaces outside and in</p> <p>Stilling activities</p> <p>Develop independence</p> <p>Children thinking for themselves / taking responsibility</p> <p>Developing self-control</p> <p>Recognising how silence and reflection has positive impacts on academic results / mental health</p>
<p>A sense of self-worth</p>	<p>Display celebrating all effort and achievement</p> <p>High academic standards</p>	<p>Educating for Dignity and Respect:</p>	<p>Friends intervention: aspiration and self-belief</p>

<p>and the worth of others</p>	<p>Circle time / PSHE – especially and specifically BUT all the time All are unique and special SEN / Gifted and talented provision Health and Safety policy and procedures Safeguarding children Teamwork - sport Family / mixed-age groupings Teaching about Jesus Admissions policy How we do assessment / feedback – praise, understanding, personal Challenge of materialism Guest speakers Houses International Dimension Learning styles Year 6 Leavers’ awards Challenging any behaviour which puts the other ‘down’ / lack of dignity A broad curriculum in which all children can experience success</p>	<p><i>‘Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.’</i> Colossians 3:12-14</p> <p>How does this link to the school’s vision and mission?</p> <p>Both our children and adults are valued nurtured, encouraged and supported to be the best as God intended.</p>	<p>Developing links with the community</p>
<p>A growing self-confidence in expressing inner thoughts (spiritual communication)</p>	<p>Discussions / JIGSAW Listening skills Circle time Creative expression – dance, art, drama, music (concerts) Not being afraid / embarrassed / unqualified for teachers and pupils to talk about difficult things Make mistakes / take risks Interactive play Child / Class-led assemblies and worship times Well-taught RE and Spiritual development that offers and models a spiritual and emotional language (emotional literacy) Opportunities for prayer</p>	<p>Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills:</p> <p><i>‘Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will.’</i> Romans 12:2</p> <p>How does this link to the school’s vision and mission?</p> <p>A sense of spiritual communication is developed ‘so all may be supported to be the best as God intended.</p>	<p>Pupil-led worship</p> <p>More opportunities for extemporary prayer</p>
<p>A sense of the joy in life, all achievements and play</p>	<p>Taking part Extending good EYFS practice Celebration Assembly Competitions e.g. Cup Cakes/ kindle pads Laughter and fun Healthy school issues After School Clubs - Spotlight / Drama / Sports clubs etc. A relaxing / inspirational staff room PE partnership POPA / Social events Teaching for Mastery maths Sport (Sports Premium) Achievement for all through a broad curriculum and hard work Residential visits Lunchtime sport leader</p>	<p>Educating for Hope and Aspiration:</p> <p><i>‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.’</i> Romans 15:13</p> <p>How does this link to the school’s vision and mission?</p> <p>We develop opportunities ‘to inspire, nurture and bring joy’.</p>	<p>Playtime resources</p> <p>Wet play resources</p>