



# ST JAMES' C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development Policy

*'With exploring minds, and faith; we grow and learn together'*  
*'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path' ~ Psalm 119: v105*

*Our vision is to ensure children enjoy learning and, with exploring minds, are actively engaged in their studies. At St James' our curriculum will provide them with skills, knowledge and personal characteristics that enable them to make the most of their lives and take the opportunities they encounter. This approach is mirrored by the staff who reflect and adapt in order to develop their practice as the dedicated professionals that they are. In this way we grow and learn together as we follow the St James Way: Be Kind, Be Respectful and to always Give Your All.*

*From the foundation offered by our infant counterparts, where they: 'teach the children to choose the right path', Proverbs 22:6. Our vision is to follow on that journey. We teach that the Lord's word is a lamp to their feet, a light to such path. ~ Psalm 119: v105. This Christian vision is underpinned by our teaching of the Christian faith and our school values of: Peace, Compassion, Friendship, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Endurance.*

**Date of policy:** February 2025

**Approved by Reverend Alison Dobell of St James' Church- Foundation/Ex Officio School Governor**

**Review date:** February 2027 (or when significant changes are made if prior to review date)

**Rationale** - As a Church of England School, the associated Christian ethos effects the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child which is recognised as being of fundamental importance for the education of all children by Governors, staff and parents of our school. It is taught through all subjects of the curriculum and in particular RE and PHSE. It supports all areas of learning and is essential in the school's endeavour to develop the whole child.

Staff also have a shared passion and understanding, to not only foster a love of learning in their students; but to also ensure there is a collaborative approach to promote qualities that allow kindness and happiness to shine. This comes from a responsibility for staff and students to follow together The St James' Way: Be Kind, Be Respectful, Give Your All.

**Spiritual Development** - Spiritual development is relevant to all children not only those who come from Christian homes.

**In developing the spirituality of children, we provide opportunities 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 around the world. Be able to recognise and celebrate difference.
- Be able to adopt a growth mindset. To believe in yourself and use endurance and resilience to overcome challenges.
- Hold aspirations for a happy and successful future life.
- Exercise an exploring mind, along with our talents, to make the most of opportunities that the school offers.
- To appreciate beauty in nature, and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder.
- Be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection, meditation and 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.
- To show kindness and respect to all others, so to create a peaceful environment to grow and learn.
- To be thankful for all that is good in life, to appreciate our friends, family and school community so that we can grow and learn together.
- To recognise the joy of inner peace and happiness.

In line with our Christian ethos within the broader context of Spiritual Development, some opportunities are sought in RE, Collective Worship and in other creative areas across the curriculum. Teaching of our Christian values and themes from stories from the bible, allow children to be guided in their journey through life. This is supported by our vision passage 'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path', Psalms 119v 105. Opportunities are planned with the aim of promoting spiritual development with particular examples including: daily collective worship, daily opportunities for prayer, enrichment opportunities and field work into nearby national park, visits to museums and other areas of the community; regular visits to church for services and reflection workshops. Feedback/pupil voice is highly prioritised in the school with recent and significant changes to our school policies, curriculum design, changes to the way we use our playtimes and collective worship practices all shaped by the views of our children. With them feeling involved with the strategic direction of the school we hope to create a positive, happy and safe place to grow and learn together.

**The school will promote spiritual development through:**

- Fostering a passion for opinion and allowing a safe environment to state opinion and agree/disagree respectfully.
- Offering opportunities for children to learn about prejudice, discrimination and injustices of the past so that through empathy, they can lead better choices within their own lives.
- Provide opportunities for students to explore their feelings about their own behaviour and the behaviour of others so that they can understand feelings and triggers.

- Fostering high self-esteem and resilience by encouraging children to take risks or face challenges in their learning within a secure and positive environment.
- Promote an ambitious mind-set in all students so that they may lead happy lives driven by interests and passion irrespective of background.
- Demonstrating its appreciation for creativity, and provide opportunities for children to frequently use their own creativity and imagination.
- Offering opportunities for aesthetic experience in art, music, dance, and literature.
- Making time for stillness and reflection which may lead to children coming to the threshold of prayer.
- Developing an empathy towards injustices in the world and a proactive nature to tackling local, national and global issues.
- Developing respectful listening skills and a productive work ethic.
- Show kindness for self and others with collaborative approach to supporting each other through the curriculum.

**Moral Development** - This relates to the child's developing understanding of what is "right", "wrong" and "fair". We aim to develop a proactive stance in playing our part to address an identified injustice. This can be at a local, national and global level. Children are encouraged to 'Think global, act local'

**Moral development is concerned with:**

- Developing the child's awareness and understanding of the moral code of the communities in which they live; these may or may not be statutory.
- Helping the child to realise that to enjoy rights we have to accept responsibilities.
- Developing the child's understanding of why rules are necessary.
- Developing the child's self-discipline so that rules are observed as a point of principle and not out of the fear of sanctions.
- Giving the child the knowledge and ability to question and to reason so that they are capable of deciding on the most appropriate action after considering the consequences of an action.
- Develop the skills necessary to explain their own behaviour.
- Value physical wellbeing, privacy, feelings, beliefs and rights of others.

**The School/staff will promote the moral development of the child by;**

- Agreeing to conduct themselves following the St James' Way and consistently conduct their role as demonstrated by Staff Code of Conduct.
- Provide well planned activities to help promote moral development including daily acts of collective worship and lessons linked to PSHE curriculum.
- Ensure all voices are heard and not accepting bullying, dishonesty, unkindness, disrespect and defiance.

**Cultural Development** - Development in this area allows the child to recognise that all cultural groups are distinctive. Culture is the embodiment of shared beliefs, knowledge, customs and values of that group. Differences are explored, recognised and celebrated. The child needs to appreciate the distinctive features of their own culture and those of others. We need to remember that cultures are dynamic and are constantly being re-shaped.

**The School will promote cultural development through:**

- Exposing children to their own culture and those of others.
- This will be taught through the whole curriculum.
- Enrichment events including visits out of school and visitors to the school will support this teaching.
- Encouraging tolerance and appreciation of the beliefs, value and customs of different cultures.