



St Nicholas C of E
Primary School



Kirkby Malzeard C of E
Primary School

Federation of Kirkby Malzeard and St Nicholas CE School

Spirituality Policy

May 2022

Our school vision drives everything we do at The Federation of Kirkby Malzeard and Saint Nicholas C of E Primary Schools.

We believe that our children should have the aspiration and opportunity to 'Live life in all its fullness' John 10:10, 'shine like stars in the sky' Philippians 2:15; and have the courage to act with kindness, patience, love and peace in all the communities they serve in. *At the core of our Federation our Christian values of peace, love, patience, and kindness, underpin all of our lives.*

Rationale

"Spirituality is like a bird:

If you hold it too closely, it chokes,

And if you hold it too loosely, it escapes."

Israel Salanter Lipkin

At The Federation of Kirkby Malzeard and Saint Nicholas C of E Primary Schools Spirituality is cherished and nurtured, through a rich curriculum which provides opportunities for each young person's individual spirituality to thrive, laying a firm foundation for a strong and purposeful life in our modern-day world.

In order to grow and develop spiritually we must all have a good understanding, tolerance and openness to ideas, world views, beliefs and faiths. We want pupils to explore 'Big Questions' and 'Wonders', considering and responding to the wonder of life which develops our spiritual life. We openly embrace challenge within our school community and encourage children to look beyond the idea of 'finding an answer'. At KM and SN School we believe that Spiritual Development is not necessarily or exclusively religious but is focussed on deep personal development and growth of the human spirit.

'The spiritual dimension of children's development is part of a holistic understanding of the needs and rights of children, young people, families and communities.' Dr Janet Seden

'Spirituality is a very natural part of everyone's childhood' Rebecca Nye

The Church of England describes Spirituality as 'Human Wholeness' in the Report 'The Way Ahead'. Childhood Spirituality needs to be nurtured as it is essential in order for Children to become well rounded and ready to take their place in society fulfilled, happy, spiritually aware and socially and emotionally engaged. No child is complete without spiritual engagement.

Implementation

One of the ways we encourage our children to express their spirituality is through the awareness or understanding of the value of silence and reflection. We therefore actively provide opportunities for our children to reflect and give them time to think more deeply about things to fully appreciate 'life in all its fullness'. Research studies suggest that Childhood Spirituality operates at a non-verbal level and that Childhood is the time when people most experience 'illuminating moments'.

We believe Spirituality will only happen when we are open and willing to go deeper at the Federation of Kirkby M and SN we value space (both in time and physicality) to allow children and adults to 'go deeper' together to share a sense of awe, wonder, sensory, open minded relationships, reflection and sensitive moments. We are responsive to purposeful opportunities and exploit these moments.

David Smith's work 'Making Sense of Spiritual Development (1999) helpfully presented a structure for mapping the progression of spiritual development across the curriculum.

Windows

Opportunities to look out on the world to gaze and wonder: The Wow and Ows moments. The things we find amazing and bring us up short. Encounter: The learning about life

Mirrors

Giving opportunities for children to reflect, to look inward to consider some of the big questions of life: To explore their own insights and those of others.

Reflection: The learning from.

Doors

Giving opportunities to children to respond, to do something to go through the door of a creative expression of their own thoughts and convictions.

Transformation: The learning to live by putting into action what they believe.

Similarly, the 'Doughnut Definition' developed by Liz Mills

Spiritual Ring Doughnut

The Doughnut represents the Whole Child.

The outer ring is the tangible (Mind and Body), the hole represents the intangible (Spirit) but if there was no hole it wouldn't be a doughnut.

This remains perhaps the best definition of spiritual development; it is the exploration and development of that hole in our centre that makes us whole.

The holistic understanding of the whole person both child and adult, our wellbeing and spirituality all combine to enable us to flourish and to ultimately 'Shine Like stars in the sky and live life in all its fullness'.

Date for review: May 2025