The First Light Federation

Hopton Church of England Primary Academy & Kessingland Church of England Primary Academy

Spirituality Policy

Love, Hope and Joy – You will know them by what they do.

- Matthew 7:16

Spirituality involves the recognition of a feeling or sense or belief that there is something greater than myself, something more to being human than sensory experience, and that the greater whole of which we are part is divine in nature.

Policy Type:	**Academy Policy**
Approved By:	**LGB**
Approval Date::	**TBC**
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Person Responsible:	**Executive Headteacher**

Changes to the policy

Page	Changes	Agreed/Date

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a school where every child and adult has self-belief and the opportunity to be the best they can be, fostered through a sense of belonging, of being valued and with respect for individuality. We will be defined by who we are and what we do.

Our Story – The Parable of the Lost Sheep

At The First Light Federation our vision is inspired by a parable that Jesus told which reflects the values of Love, Hope and Joy and encapsulates our ethos. As the shepherd looks out for his sheep we too encourage and support each other. The shepherd makes a bold choice. He has the confidence and faith to ensure that no one is left behind and sees the uniqueness and value of each individual. This story reflects how we nurture each other in our school family.

Luke 15 v 1 – 5 Matthew 18 v 12 – 14

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father."

– John 10: 14-15

Growing and achieving as a team, to learn and succeed in a caring Christian Community.

Our aim is to create a safe, nurturing environment which: Is Approachable; Works in partnership; Has high expectations and aspirations for all.	**Our vision is for the children to be:** Independent; Responsible; Respectful; Happy, lifelong learners.
Our Core Values: **C**ompassion **A**spiration **R**espect, **E**quality and Equity **#CARE**	

Policy Aim

The aim of this policy is to outline how The First Light Federation provides opportunities for children to develop their spirituality.

It is our role in school to inspire, create and recognise that spirituality exists in everyone. As Jesus said, “If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit” and we want to ensure we support our children to be happy and rounded in all respects, including spirituality, which cannot be taught or measured.

What is Spirituality

Spirituality is not possible to teach. It is like the wind - it makes a difference but is uncontrollable for each person. It might change someone’s understanding and beliefs but ultimately is an innate sense of awe and wonder. It is about understanding that there is something more than just ‘me’.

Promoting spirituality should not be confused with developing faith. Faith is a set of beliefs by which you live your life by and could be a response to a belief in God. Faith is something you choose whereas spirituality is an aspect of human development - it is not separate but integral to who we are and what makes us whole. Spirituality is for everybody regardless of faith.

How does The First Light Federation promote spirituality?

Our schools aim to support children in making sense of themselves and the world around them. We aim to help them observe their own responses to different experiences. Our schools believe that experiences, both in and out of school, are important to the development of all pupils.

We will create frameworks that help them to consider big, sometimes overwhelming, concepts such as life, death, identity, war, environmental factors etc. but without necessarily offering answers. These opportunities come through the teaching and learning of our whole school curriculum particularly our Values, Collective Worship, RE, PSHE/RSE, Science, Art, Music and English.

Children will have exposure to spiritual experiences and conversations to know that it exists for everyone, including adult

Opportunities for spirituality development come when:

- children are given space to stop, look, listen, think and reflect
- children feel safe to share opinions and think differently from others
- children use their imagination

Children need:

- time to be listened to;
- adults that are respectful;
- space to explore, think and discuss;
- opportunities that encourage wonder and surprise;
- to know that there is not always a product or end result;
- to know there is another way.
- time to 'just be' and to experience peace and stillness

A simple pictorial representation of how we can develop Spirituality within our school community is through

- Reflection is like looking in a mirror and having time to reflect on the learning;
- Learning is like looking through a window to see new horizons;
- Responding is like going through a door considering how the learning will have an impact on yourself or your behaviour.
- Beyond is taking our learning and experiences and linking them to our own lives.

Spirituality in Our School

	**MIRRORS - SELF** *Like looking in a mirror..* Thinking about ourselves and how we feel about things.
	**WINDOWS - BEAUTY** *Like looking through a window…* Looking at the world in new ways.
	**DOORS - OTHERS** *Like opening a door to welcome people in …* Understanding how other people feel.
	**CANDLE- BEYOND** *Like watching a flame and thinking..* Reflecting on our learning and experiences.

Spirituality through Collective Worship

Collective Worship can often develop spirituality in both nature and content.

Our school uses 'The Gathering, The Worship, The Reflection and finally The Dismissal as four key elements to our whole school Collective Worship.

The school uses repeated words as our opening and closing that reflect the school vision. Collective Worship offers time for thought and reflection, and light is used as a symbol. Children are offered opportunities reflect and respond within collective worship. Prayers written by the children consider thoughts and concepts that are important to them.

Activities and opportunities will include:

- exposure and appreciation of nature;
- following rituals and traditions;
- use of prayer or reflection time;
- time for silence and stillness;
- acts of service that benefit others;
- stories that promote thought and imagination (without the need to find a moral)

Evidence of spirituality may come through art, play, attitudes, movement and using the senses.

Barriers to Development of Spirituality

Development of spirituality can be hindered when:

- adults trivialise something small to them but which is big to a child;
- the 'busyness' of life and not having the time to look and think;
- lack of space for stillness and listening.

By being aware of these potential barriers, staff across the First Light Federation are able to allow children to develop their spirituality throughout their daily lives whilst in the school environment.