



**Crazyes Hill CE Primary School
Spirituality Statement**

'A tree is known by its fruit, people by their actions.'

Our vision is taken from Matthew 7:20

Our vision at Crazyes Hill is that our 'fruit' will be children and adults who have the **resilience** to weather life's ups and downs, show **respect** for themselves, others and their environment and demonstrate the ability to build and maintain good **relationships** with all in their community. A key part of that belief is to nurture children's spiritual awareness and develop each child's spiritual character.

In our school we believe in supporting the growth and development of the whole person for all those for whom we have a responsibility. This therefore includes Staff (at all levels) and Children. When we talk about the whole person, we are referring to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of who they are. In this document we aim to set out how we will try and support the spiritual development of each individual in our care. We have deliberately avoided the term policy as we acknowledge that each person is different, especially when it comes to how we understand and relate to spirituality, this is therefore a statement to help guide us in our support of each other in this area.

What is spirituality?

For us as a Church of England school it is about an awareness of ourselves as created by God to be in relationship with God, other people and the world around us. This does not mean we expect people to share our Christian faith but it is the foundation we build upon and therefore support others from. We believe it is relevant to those of all faiths or none and inspires our open hospitality to all.

'For a human being, especially a child or young person, to have a full quality of life, spirituality in all its aspects must be nurtured and affirmed' (John Bradford).

To help us, we have identified a set of characteristics that we feel are displayed in a spiritually developed person. These are:

- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- A sense of transience and constant change
- A sense of pattern, order and purpose
- An awareness that there is often more to things than meets the eye
- A sense of the quality of silence and reflection and the ability to listen
- A sense of self worth
- A sense of the worth of others
- A sense of community – its demands, values, rituals and celebrations
- A sense of the joy of life, achievement and play
- An awareness of limitation and loss

- An awareness of the natural world and its capacity to point beyond itself
- A sense of the human capacity for choice, decision and responsibility

We aim to nurture these characteristics in the following ways:

- Through example – The way we model behaviour, conversation and care for one another should reflect love, compassion, respect and an awareness of the world around us.
- Through teaching – Specifically in RE, RSE and PSHE but in all subjects where appropriate we will take opportunity to reflect on how our learning impacts our place in the world and how we should respond. (see RE, RSE and PSHE policies / Curriculum statements)
- By providing a broad and balanced curriculum which embraces all forms of creativity, play and the use of the imagination
- Through collective worship – Our collective worship reflects our Christian foundation whilst allowing space for personal reflection upon how the teaching used impacts on our daily lives. It is also a space for prayer either individual or led. It is inclusive to those of others faiths and those of none. (see Collective Worship Policy for more information)
- Through a regular time in the day for quiet and reflection/prayer. This might be listening to a story, lighting a candle, quiet reflection time or outdoor experiences
- By providing frequent opportunities for children to explore, express and share feelings.
- By constantly reaffirming the importance of relationships, taking responsibility and being resilient through the GEM Values awards
- By providing opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms, and appreciate the connections and unity in the world
- By encouraging each other to admit mistakes and to say sorry, recognising that this is an important healing and redemptive process
- By encouraging children to show kindness, caring and compassion

Impact: How do we know this is being effective?

Spiritually developed children love and accept themselves and enjoy good relationships with each other. They take an interest and delight in the world around them; they are open to what lies beyond the material. They are able to express and understand feelings, they have a strong moral sense and a love of what is good. They are able to enjoy quiet and stillness, they possess an active imagination, and show joy in creativity and discovering new skills.