



## ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL, RUABON

### Spirituality Policy

Our overall ambition in all we do is to ensure our pupils have excellent opportunities to develop into:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

#### Aims and Objectives

The school aims to teach children that they have a unique and equally important vocation from God. The school aims to help each child on his/her individual journey by offering opportunities for reflection and self-evaluation as well as personal challenges.

The school aims to instil confidence and self esteem into each child and to give them a sense of inner peace and contentment which may lead them to an understanding of human life and global issues. As believers in God, the importance of relationships with others is seen as the essence of our human existence.

The development of the spirituality of all children permeates every aspect of school life and its curriculum here at St. Mary's Primary School.

#### Access

At St. Mary's School we ensure that all pupils have opportunities for spiritual development regardless of religious beliefs or particular faiths. All pupils will be made aware of the need to play a part in the spiritual life of the school; all should understand that they are equally valued for their contributions.

#### Teaching and Learning

Opportunities are given in St. Mary's School for Spiritual Development in all areas of the curriculum as follows:-

- In **RE** and **Collective Worship** which provide the focus for teaching the Christian Faith and an awareness of other faiths.

- In **Welsh** through a study of the Church in Wales, Welsh Literature and Art. Children are taught to appreciate the beauty of landscapes and to develop a sense of pride in belonging to a Church in Wales School.
- In **English** by speaking and listening, in circle time, when they listen to others, discuss and debate issues and learn to appreciate other points of view. Through stories they learn about other cultures and moral issues. Creativity is seen as a particularly important factor in Spiritual Development, in allowing opportunities for self-expression through writing and drama. At St. Mary's we aim to teach pupils to appreciate the beauty of poetry and the enjoyment that can be found in books.
- In **Maths** children should gradually become aware of a need for order, shape and pattern in the world and the importance of time and seasons. Skills such as estimation, prediction and the ability to tackle problems effectively are all relevant to their lives.
- In **Science** pupils show a growing awareness of the forces of the universe, and learn to explore the natural world. Opportunities are given to marvel at creation by taking children out into the local environment. Children learn to develop a sense of awe and wonder and the amazing things found in the world around us, created by God.
- In **Art and Design Technology** pupils learn to use their gifts of creativity in exploring the world of Art which helps a person fulfil the need to create, either for personal fulfilment or for the benefit of others. Art is seen as a route to personal achievement and satisfaction.
- In **Music** children use the talents given them and develop them. They should experience the joy which music can give to others as well as personal pleasure. Being part of musical experiences is seen as important in St. Mary's School.
- In **PE/Games** - to learn self-awareness and accept personal challenges. Pupils learn the need for dedication, training, teamwork and practice.

- In **History/Geography** pupils become aware of global issues. They compare lifestyles and learn about other cultures both in the past and nowadays. They learn that conflict and resolution are part of man's struggle to improve his human existence.
- **ICT** can be used as a tool in any area of the curriculum.
- **PSD** - Children learn how to recognise and deal with different emotions and feelings. Through discussion and circle time activities, children learn to recognise and celebrate our talents, differences and individualities.

All staff is expected to provide pastoral care. Close links with the Church at local and diocesan levels help children to develop an understanding of the Christian faith.

The essence of spirituality is seen as that of eternal unanswered questions where children are encouraged to ask questions that are important to them and to have time to think and reflect.

Spiritual Development will be promoted by offering on the one hand opportunities for reflection and renewal to encourage a sense of inner peace, while at the same time offering challenges through which a child may come to greater self awareness, self esteem and grow in confidence to express their inner thoughts.

Children will be encouraged to meet challenges and see them as opportunities for personal development. Children are expected to take responsibility both in their own class with others and to volunteer to help. They are encouraged to participate readily in activities such as assemblies, concerts and sports and to promote a sense of belonging that contribute to the life and unity of the school. It is felt that force has no place in spirituality.

### **School Area for Reflection**

The school is had a reflection garden for pupils to use. We also have prayer stations around the school; the focus for these areas is regularly changed and developed. The area offers children a quiet space where they may go to think about their own feelings, relationships and their ability to make a difference in their communities.

### **The Place of Spiritual Development in relation to other policies**

Spiritual Development is an integral part of the social moral and cultural development of pupils but should go beyond our human existence.

In St. Mary's it includes Religious beliefs, and the ability to communicate on these issues, opportunities to reflect and search for meaning in life and a sense of wonder at God's world.

The Spiritual Development Policy should compliment other policies and reflect what the school is trying to achieve in all areas for its pupils.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed in line with our cycle of improvement.