



Lytham C.E Primary School
Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy



Policy Leader:	Mrs. J. Taylor
Policy adapted:	September 2016
Review dates (and amended if required):	September 2019
Last adopted by the Governing Body:	Full Governing Body Autumn 2016

Our Mission Statement underpins this policy which is

'To inspire everyone in our school family to be the best they can be within our caring Christian community'



Lytham C.E. School promotes spiritual development within a context of Christian beliefs, values and worship, and provides pupils with opportunities to explore the Christian faith and develop a relationship with God.

Being a church school within the Lytham community, we welcome opportunities to serve it further by developing links between home, parish, individuals and other organisations.

The whole school looks to Christ for the basis of its existence. Prayer and worship are central to school life and we want everyone to regard the privilege of a Christian faith as vital to their future responsibilities in Society.

It has been written in accordance with the guidelines from the Blackburn Diocese. It is expected that many unplanned opportunities will occur for spiritual development, and staff are encouraged to "seize the moment" when appropriate. We value the profound effect that such moments may have on individuals.

Spiritual Development

The school's curriculum aims to develop in pupils-

- A set of Christian personal beliefs and values by which we live
- A sense of transcendence – that there is more to life than "meets the eye", more than a physical or material existence.
- An awareness of order, pattern, meaning and purpose in the world – leading towards an understanding that for Christians, creation is revelation of God's loving purposes
- A sense of personal identity and self-worth and of all others as created in God's image
- Self-knowledge, and an awareness and growth of feelings, emotions and imagination
- An understanding of Christian teaching on life and death, on suffering, grief and loss
- An awareness that life involves choices between good and evil
- An awareness of the Trinity and how that represents God
- An awareness of God's love and care for them personally
- An understanding of the Christian belief of Jesus as Saviour

Therefore, the school provides opportunities in collective worship and throughout the curriculum and life of the school for pupils to:

- Be quiet and reflect on life and the world, and "wait on God"
- Become familiar with traditional forms of Christian prayer and worship
- Give thanks to God for their creation, preservation, salvation, and the promise of eternal life
- Use a variety of prayer forms and techniques; use of their own prayers
- Question, explore, discuss and give an account of their own beliefs
- Understand and evaluate Christian and some other interpretations and responses to life
- Use their gifts of imagination and creativity
- Explore and express feelings and emotions
- Develop respect for others as independent, thinking, feeling people
- Face difficult or distressing matters in a context of loving Christian teaching and support
- Consider 'What If' questions in relation to their own beliefs and spiritual understanding.

Spiritual Development has to take place in a particular context, in our case that of Christian belief and practice. Christian spiritual development shares features with other forms of spirituality in that it is concerned with coming to know ourselves, learning to reflect on experiences, exploring important questions of how to live and treat others, and so reaching a set of beliefs and values by which to guide our lives. Its distinctiveness, most importantly, consists in its capacity through a context of Christian worship, life and teaching, to offer

opportunities for all in the school community to develop a relationship with God through Jesus.

Spiritual development in a Christian context is only possible when there is growth of the whole person. It therefore forms the basis for the other three areas of moral, social and cultural development. The school makes systematic use of the Blackburn Diocese R.E. Scheme of Work as well as other resources and invites the co-operation and involvement of the vicars and church members.

Moral Development

The school aims to develop in pupils a moral stance which is based on Christian ideals of determination, faith, forgiveness, friendship, honesty, love, respect, service and thankfulness based on recognition of others as created in the image of God. We seek to develop in pupils a clear understanding of all these values and set out in detail ways of encouraging and rewarding them in line with the mission statement. The school will seek to ensure that adult relationships in the school set the best possible Christian example. We believe that both adults and pupils can be helped to live out these Christian values through the action of the Holy Spirit.

It is not the intention for children simply to conform to an imposed set of Christian standards. The school therefore aims to provide opportunities for pupils through the curriculum and school life to:

- Develop an understanding of right and wrong
- Develop an understanding of the need for shared values and accepted rules of conduct in school and community
- Develop self-discipline and a loving concern for others
- Understand links between behaviour and beliefs, including the teachings of the Gospel
- Stand up for and put into practice our Christian values despite external pressures. In order to achieve this children need to develop the following habits and skills:
 - Appreciate the feelings and concerns of others
 - Develop and sustain relationships
 - Reflect on questions of right and wrong and on their own values
 - Discuss their own beliefs and feelings
 - Listen with respect to the views and opinions of others
 - Discuss and debate issues rationally and sensitively
 - Exercise care and responsibility for others

The exploration of moral issues of questions of right and wrong, and of Christian teaching on appropriate ways in which to live, will be fostered within collective worship and R.E. and through various curriculum subjects, including English, Drama, History, Science, Technology, P.E. and PSHE.

The school offers guidance to teachers on Christian approaches to teaching controversial or sensitive issues (see other relevant policy statement e.g. SRE).

The school seeks to recognise and affirm good conduct, commitment and service to others through its reward system and through celebration and thanks in the context of collective worship.

Social Development

Because Christians believe that we are "all one in Christ" and members of God's family in the Church and accept Christ's commandment to "love our neighbours as ourselves", the school sets out to foster the commitment and ability to live and work with others, to share resources and to show concern and responsibility for others in the school and wider community. Classroom management will seek to promote group co-operation and mutual

responsibility. Children will be pointed to the value and importance of working, playing and praying together.

The school seeks to avoid a predominance of groupings based on a single sex or interest, or social or ethnic background. It sets out to offer a wide range of educational, social, sporting and extra-curricular activities to all its members. In sport, there will be a balance of individual or team activities, both competitive and non-competitive. Responsible leadership roles will be encouraged in a range of activities, through the appointment of monitors, house captains, Head Boy and Head Girl, Worship Leaders and School Council.

The school aims to develop social skills and insights through the full range of activities in school involving children and adults, and by creating situations where pupils have to relate to visitors to the school and do so with increasing politeness, tact and confidence.

Children will be encouraged to participate in and contribute to the life of the Church and the community through regular whole school worship in Church, community projects at times like Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

The school's programme of fund-raising, the way funds are raised and the Christian, charitable and other causes chosen will contribute to developing the habit of care and support for those in need.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to choose charities the school should support, and to take an active part in planning and carry out fundraising

Social achievement and service to church or community will be recognised and celebrated.

Cultural Development

The school aims to broaden children's horizons by introducing them to a range of cultural activities and experiences, by building up an appreciation of their own cultural heritage and traditions, and introducing them to examples of the variety of human cultures, beliefs and ways of life. At the same time the school will seek to emphasise and express its Christian foundation, values, beliefs and way of life.

The planned programme includes the following:

- Experience and appreciation of the rich heritage and range of cultures in Britain, in particular through English, Drama, History, R.E., Music, Art and Sport.
- Appreciation and respect for other cultures, faiths and ways of life, in particular through use of the Diocesan R.E. syllabus and relevant curriculum materials (see school R.E. policy) and through the study of language, Art, Music, Geography and Technology and use of Computer networking.
- Educational visits to museums, events and places of cultural and historic interest (e.g. Blackburn Cathedral, Roman remains at Ribchester, museums).
- Introducing children to Christian cultures and the multi-cultural nature of the Anglican Church and worldwide Church through R.E., Worship and other areas of the curriculum such as Art and Music.

The school sets out actively to promote mutual respect and harmony between different racial and ethnic groups.

Co-ordination and Monitoring

The policy will be co-ordinated and monitored regularly by the Headteacher and Governors in consultation with subject leaders for R.E., Collective Worship, P. S. H. E.

Evaluation, Review and Development

The progress and implementation of the policy will be discussed annually at a staff meeting and a report made to the Governors' curriculum committee, including proposals for staff development or resourcing, or with implications for the School Development Plan. Ofsted inspectors also make judgements as to how effective the school is in promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.