



Trent Young's CE School

Spirituality Policy

Our Vision

Let your light shine Matthew 5:14-16

Our vision for each member of our community stems from Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Being the best we can be, for ourselves and others

At Trent Young's CE School, we believe that every child and adult can shine and that this can be for the benefit of all. We recognise that we are all special in God's eyes and have unique talents, which we nurture so that each of us has the opportunity to become the very best person that God intended us to be. We want to see everyone being inspired and growing in wisdom, knowledge and dignity. We want to see children flourishing and excelling in everything that they do through providing rich experiences which give everyone the opportunity to achieve more than they ever thought possible. We do not want the brilliant things that we do and learn to be hidden. We want to encourage our children to aspire to great things and for the light of their lives to shine and make a difference in their classrooms, throughout the school and when they return home and into their community. As we all demonstrate our Christian values of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, in a supportive atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, our hope is that light will shine from Trent Young's in many ways, every day - for the benefit of all and for the glory of God.

Valuing ourselves

We also believe that developing a sense of self-worth is of paramount importance. When he was on earth, Jesus once said: 'I am the light of the world' (John 8:12). However, as he spoke to those around him during the Sermon on the Mount, he also used these words: 'You are the light of the world'. In addition to letting their light shine on others, we want our children to recognise the value of their own light: to be proud of their personal achievements; to value and respect themselves; and to know how loved they are both by God and by others. We aim to develop a Growth Mindset so that the members of our school are able to face the future with hope and aspiration and embrace all that life has to offer.

The words of the Sermon on the Mount remind us that a light should not be put under a bowl – it should give light to everyone, including oneself. In possession of God's light and His love, it is possible for us all to show something of his light in our families, in our school, in our community and throughout the world.

Our Christian Values

Our school values are taken from Galatians 5:22-23:

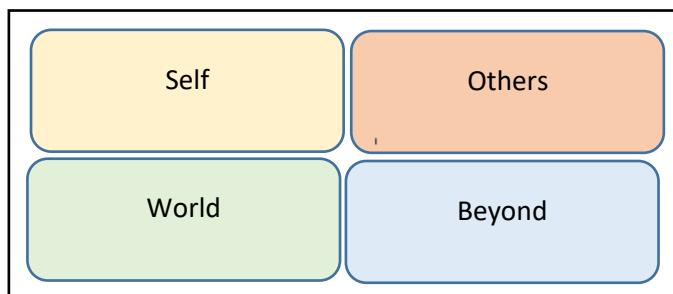
“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

We also include the values of hope, community, wisdom and dignity from the Church of England's vision for schools.

					
Love	Joy	Peace	Patience	Hope	Community
					
faithfulness	Gentleness	Self-control	Kindness and Goodness	Wisdom	Dignity

What is Spirituality?

Spirituality will mean different things to different people and encompasses all of us as human beings. At Trent Young's CE School, spirituality is defined as developing our unique selves, our relationships with others, and connecting to something that is bigger than ourselves: the extraordinary around us, all of which are done through love.



Self

- Our own feelings: our ability to reflect and express
- Awareness of our uniqueness, for example, 'I am loved; I am special to God; I am happy with who I am'
- Gratefulness for the things we have and the person we are
- Curiosity and discovery of our own faith
- Development of imagination and creativity; critical thinking and openness to new ideas and change

Others

- Developing empathy and understanding, respect, openness towards others and to new experiences and being grateful for them
- To love and be loved
- Working together in harmony
- Knowing the difference we make to others, and harnessing this for good

World

- Noticing and appreciating the beauty around us and within us
- Enjoying the miracles of everyday life and taking time to be grateful
- Taking time for what really matters, planning for these moments
- Appreciating beauty in art, music, nature
- To be open to change

Beyond

- Encountering/experiencing / contemplating things beyond our material / physical world, e.g. God, having a sense of awe and wonder,
- Curiosity: ability to think and ask the 'Big Questions' (eg about life, death, suffering, nature of God). Communicate these to others, take risks to ask challenging questions that sometimes can't be answered
- Opportunities for reflection, prayer and stillness which invoke a sense of peace and deeper connection with ourselves and the world around us.
- Making sense of the world, whilst accepting that some things can't be explained

Spiritual capacities and experiences

All children grow and learn in their own unique way. We foster their spiritual growth through a broad and balanced curriculum as well as through worship times and extra-curricular activities. We want all children to access spiritual experiences, whether of Christian faith, a different faith or none. Many of these are accessed through our curriculum provision, as well as through off-site visits and visitors to the school. Explicit opportunities such as attending church or worship are planned and take place with the pupils. Parents and carers are partners in our provision. Other faiths are explored respectfully as part of our spiritual provision.

To develop our spirituality, we need space to learn about the world and how to care for it; understand our place in it; to take time for awe and wonder; to ask ultimate questions; and be inspired to look beyond ourselves and serve and nurture others so that their lights may shine too.

We use 'windows, mirrors, doors' to develop children's spirituality.

Windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities for children to be aware of the world in new ways, looking out into the world.• To wonder about life's 'WOWS. Things that are amazing.• To think about life's 'OWS' that take us by surprise!• Learning about life in all its fullness.	
Mirrors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities to reflect on their experiences.• Looking inside yourself.• Consider life's big questions and reach for some possible answers.• Learning from life by exploring our own insights and those of others.	
Doors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities for children to respond.• Moving onto a new path or situation.• To do something creative to develop and apply our ideas.• Learning to live out our beliefs and values.	

Children's spiritual development is shown by their:

- beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- use of imagination and creativity
- willingness and ability to reflect on their experiences.

How do we provide spiritual opportunities?

We plan to provide continuity and progression in spiritual development. We use our curriculum planning documentation and other aspects of school life to ensure this is achieved. For example,

- Quiet times, stilling, reflection in class with candles, Bible or moral stories
- Big questions are explored throughout the curriculum and during Worship
- Visitors to school representing the community and charity work- for example, disability groups, charity days, opportunities to impact on our communities
- The arts
- Prayer
- Outdoor learning including forest school

Evaluating our spiritual provision

Our children's behaviour reflects the impact of our provision. They care about each other, showing kindness, empathy, compassion and a desire to do what is right, working harmoniously in our school community. They trust the adults around them and feel trusted to lead around the school. They show imagination and excitement about their learning and a curiosity to explore. Impact is also demonstrated in many other ways, for example, children's talk, their written / artistic responses to questions and prayer corner activities and in the Class worship floor books.

The headteachers and governors regularly audit our provision as part of our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural evaluations. The school uses the spiritual progression tool from Salisbury Diocese (see attached).

January 2025

Review date: January 2027