



Spirituality Policy

PURPOSE

This policy identifies how spirituality is incorporated within our Church of England Academy

Date of last review:	July 2020	Author:	Peter Haylock
Date of next review:	July 2022	Owner:	ARK BDA
Type of policy:	<input type="checkbox"/> Network-wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tailored by school	Approval:	LGB 09/19
School:	Ark BDA	Key Contact Name:	Peter Haylock

POSITIONING WITHIN ARK OPERATIONAL MODEL

Component	Element
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Leadership & Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, Reporting & Data <input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Accountabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching & Learning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curriculum & Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Culture, Ethos & Wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/> Pathways & Enrichment <input type="checkbox"/> Parents & Community <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, IT & Estates <input type="checkbox"/> Our People	Culture and ethos

At Ark Burlington Danes Academy we describe spirituality as an appreciation and cherishing of what is good, joyful, truthful and beautiful, and, in relationship with others, of what is generous, creative and loving. The spirit of a person is seen in acts of courage and perseverance, in dealing with both setbacks and praise, in endeavour and enquiry. Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of beyond – a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experience beyond the everyday. Spiritual learners search for meaning in their very existence and their place in the greater scheme of things. This is intrinsically linked with our Christian Vision which is:

“I have come that you may have life, and have it in all its fullness.”

John 10:10

At Ark Burlington Danes Academy, we believe that *everyone* deserves to be accepted, included and empowered to live a life that is purposeful and fulfilling. Through learning to our fullest potential and living a life filled with kindness and thankfulness, we can be the ones to make the world a better place.

Our aim is to: establish the right learning environment to enable the spiritual development of all pupils through the following objectives:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school’s core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them
- Develop an awareness of and respect for other people’s beliefs and faiths and the ability to articulate their own
- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community within the school, in the local area and across the globe.
- Develop strategies to build good mental health (Please reference the school mental health and wellbeing policy)
- Foster self-awareness and encourage pupils to make informed decisions
- Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life
- Begin to understand and make sense of their own feelings and emotions around certain encounters and events that occur in their life
- Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth
- Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others;
- Encourage curiosity, creativity and imagination
- Develop the ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc
- Develop a capacity to value the natural world, a sense of awe and wonder and a commitment to care for creation.

These objectives will enable the pupils to have a quality of life that encompasses respect, awareness, compassion, curiosity, understanding and relationships that reflect order, reason,

balance and integrity within the context of Christian faith.

Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues the aims and objectives by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be driven by the school's Christian vision statement and associated values which are courage, resilience, faith, leadership, love, passion for the community and commitment.
- Opportunities for spiritual development are actively planned into the curriculum and encouraged in all areas of school life.
- Unplanned and spontaneous spiritual opportunities for spiritual development are recognised, acknowledged and/or celebrated by staff and children
- Collective worship celebrates the love of God for every individual and provides opportunities for children to respond and reflect on this
- A solid understanding of the Christian concept of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; of prayer and of the Bible is nurtured and developed
- The school building and outdoor environment provides appropriate spaces for silence, stillness and prayer
- That children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight are fostered through the creative arts and interactive multi-sensory teaching strategies making use of the outdoor environment and relevant educational visits
- That the outstanding RE curriculum delivers knowledge and understanding of spirituality from a number of world faith and world view perspectives
- That children are given as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed, cherished and protected;

Approaches

In our school we seek to find ways in which all areas of the curriculum can contribute to children's spiritual development and to highlight opportunities for these in our planning by:

- Seeking to foster spiritual capacities, e.g. imagination, insight and empathy;
- Allowing children the security and opportunity to explore and express feelings and emotions and to celebrate diversity;
- Providing opportunities for prayer including silence and stillness;
- Sharing feelings and experiences that foster hope, joy, reassurance and encouragement;
- Encouraging children to develop relationships based on the school's Christian vision and associated values;
- Enabling children to make the links between the Church and Biblical teachings, the life of the school and the wider community and how these impact on their own understanding of themselves and their place within the world today;
- Providing an environment that promotes space to reflect, think and wonder.

Monitoring and evaluation

Spiritual development cannot be measured and continues throughout our lives. However, opportunities offered to children for spiritual development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways;

- Observing and listening to children through student voice sessions

- Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings alongside the school's Christian vision and values;
- Sharing of classroom work and practice;
- Ensuring that staff have a clear understanding of what spirituality means in this school by providing them with induction and development training;
- Evidence from pupils' work, e.g. RE books, SMSC work, creative writing, art;
- Regular inclusion in the SEF
- CPD opportunities and sharing examples of good practice with other schools.