



**HARTWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**A Church of England Academy**

## **Spirituality Policy**

Hartwell Primary is a Voluntary Controlled academy and, recognising its historic foundation, works to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. This includes the active promotion of British values and the respecting of those of other faiths or none.

Date agreed: Spring 2023

Review date: Spring 2024

**At Hartwell Primary our guiding Christian Values and resolute belief that all children can achieve mean that we support and challenge every child to aim for the highest standard in who they are and all they do.**

**We aspire for our children to achieve their full potential in every way so that they develop a lifelong love of learning in order to experience life in all its fullness.**

We do this by:

- Providing a welcoming, secure and inclusive environment which stimulates our learners to be confident, hardworking and to respond positively to challenge
- Promoting personal responsibility, good citizenship and Christian and British Values that develop high behavioural and moral standards
- Delivering a rich curriculum which ensures balance and breadth, and prepares our children for their future
- Delivering learning that is challenging and fun which meets the individual needs of our children
- Encouraging respect for all and active engagement with our community and the wider world

### **Hartwell Christian Values:**

**H** is for honesty every day

“Better to be poor and honest than rich and dishonest”, Proverbs 28 v 6

**A** for achievement and aspiration in every way

“A person will reap exactly what he sows”, Galatians 6 v 7

**R** is respect in what we do

“Respect everyone – love your fellow believers”, 1 Peter 2 v 17

**T** is for trust between me and you

“Trust in the Lord – he helps and protects you”, Psalm 117 v 9

**W** is for well-being, be confident in what you say

“A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body”, Proverbs 14:30

**E** is enthusiasm at work and play

“Whatever you do work at it with all your heart”, Colossians 3 v 23

**L** is for listening with kindness and care

“Listen and understand”, Matthew 15 v 10

**L** is for loving God’s world which we share

“Love conquers all”, Proverbs 10 v 12

### **‘Believe, Aspire, Grow’**

#### **What our children say about our Christian School Values:**

'**Honesty** is all about being **truthful** with your friends and teachers. It's important to own up to your mistakes.'

'Looking after people's **well-being** is all about respecting others' opinions, behaving well (because it makes you feel good) and caring for the environment'

'Our values of **enthusiasm** means that we encourage others, believe in what we do and keep trying if we can't do it yet!'

#### **Policy Aim**

The aim of this policy is to outline how Hartwell CE Primary School provides opportunities for children to develop their spirituality. It is our role in school to inspire, create and recognise that spirituality exists in everyone. We want to ensure we support our children to be happy and rounded in all respects, including spirituality, which cannot be taught or measured.

#### **What is Spirituality?**

Spirituality is not possible to teach. It is an innate sense of awe and wonder. It is about understanding that there is something more than just 'me'. Promoting spirituality should not be confused with developing faith. Faith is a set of beliefs by which you live your life by and could be a response to a belief in God. Faith is something you choose

whereas spirituality is an aspect of human development - it is not separate but integral to who we are and what makes us whole. Spirituality is for everybody regardless of faith.

### **How does Hartwell CE Primary promote spirituality?**

Our school aims to support children in making sense of themselves and the world around them. We aim to help them observe their own responses to different experiences. Our school believes that experiences, both in and out of school, are important to the development of all pupils. We will create frameworks that help them to consider big, sometimes overwhelming, concepts such as life, death, identity, war, environmental factors etc. but without necessarily offering answers. These opportunities come through the teaching and learning of our whole school curriculum particularly our values, collective worship, RE, PSHE, science, art, music and English. Children will have exposure to spiritual experiences and conversations to know that it exists for everyone including adults.

### **Opportunities for spirituality development come when:**

- children are given space to stop, look, listen, think and reflect
- children feel safe to share opinions and think differently from others
- children use their imagination

### **Children need:**

- time to be listened to;
- adults that are respectful;
- space to explore, think and discuss;
- opportunities that encourage wonder and surprise;
- to know that there is not always a product or end result;
- to know there is another way.

### **Activities and opportunities will include:**

- exposure and appreciation of nature;
- following rituals and traditions;
- use of prayer or reflection time;
- time for silence and stillness;
- acts of service that benefit others;
- stories that promote thought and imagination (without the need to find a moral)
  - Celebrating and recognising achievements in all the Hartwell values, e.g. recognising honesty on the sports field, respecting others by picking up their coat rather than standing on it and taking positive steps to improve an individual's wellbeing.

**Evidence of spirituality** may come through art, play, attitudes, movement and using the senses.

Spirituality through Collective Worship Collective Worship can often develop spirituality in both nature and content. Collective worship offers time for thought and reflection, and the use of light is used as a symbol.

Children are offered opportunities to reflect and respond within collective worship.

Barriers to Development of Spirituality

**Development of spirituality** can be hindered when: • adults trivialise something small to them but which is big to a child;

- the 'busyness' of life and not having the time to look and think;
- lack of space for stillness and listening.

By being aware of these potential barriers, staff at Hartwell CE Primary are able to allow children to develop their spirituality throughout their daily lives whilst in the school environment.

Regular monitoring will take place to ensure this policy is being adhered to. Monitoring will include: Senior leadership team checks; termly visits by the Diocese and the Ethos Committee, SIAMS Inspections and pupil surveys.