

## Spirituality at St John's

'aspiring to be all that we have been created to be.'

Supporting our children in their spiritual growth is an important aspect of school life at St John's. We recognise that the spirituality journey is different for each child and is a personal experience for each child.

At St John's, we have defined spirituality as:

*"Spirituality is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about the awe and wonder of life, asking questions, reflecting and seeing life beyond themselves.*

We see that spirituality is:

- an ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, respecting others beliefs and values
- a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- a use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- a willingness to reflect on their experiences

Children's spiritual development is fostered through all aspects of our provision. It is about the relationships and the values that we consider to be important, as well as the development of knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes. We give children opportunities to:

- Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.
- Begin to develop their own system of beliefs which may or may not include religious beliefs.
- Experience a love of learning through rewarding their enthusiasm and by encouraging exploratory play and learning.
- Reflect upon the world around them and show a sense of awe and wonder towards aspects of the natural world or human achievement.
- Reflect on the situations of others through role play, stories.
- Experience a range of stories, music, art, drama and dance

### Teaching Opportunities and Strategies

We utilise the idea of windows, mirrors and doors which identify 3 ways that we can provide opportunities for spiritual development (taken from Spiritual Development Interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom by Liz Mills - 2019)

WINDOWS: giving children opportunities to become aware of the world in new ways; to wonder about life's 'Wows' (things that are amazing) and 'Ohs' (things that bring us up short). In this children are learning about life in all its fullness.

**MIRRORS:** giving children opportunities to reflect on their experiences; to meditate on life's big questions and to consider some possible answers. In this they are learning from life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others.

**DOORS:** giving children opportunities to respond to all of this; to do something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to live by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.