



## Spiritual Development within The Forest CE Federation

### Vision

The Forest CE Federation aims to provide children with an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum that will instil a love of learning. Our approach enables all children to become lifelong learners by developing transferable skills to equip them to succeed in a competitive world. A strong **Christian** ethos permeates through our daily lives ensuring our pupils are cared for in a safe, nurturing environment within our small **community**.

Everyone is valued as an individual and helped to develop and progress in their own unique way within a Christian environment. Our vision, **'Small enough to care, Large enough to inspire, Valuing All God's children'** is at the core of everything we do. The curriculum we offer is not merely academic, but embraces the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all pupils and is deeply rooted in our vision that:

**'All things are possible for one who believes' Mark 9 v23 .**

We believe in the "whole child" and are committed to children's wider well-being through our **creative** inclusive curriculum, which is driven by our spiritual values.

Our curriculum is designed to spark **curiosity** in young minds through carefully planned opportunities for pupils to acquire, apply and master their knowledge and skills in a unique learning environment.

We know that a child who feels happy, safe and secure will have the **confidence** to try their best and achieve in all that they do. We endeavour to provide all children with the knowledge, skills and environment in which to thrive.

### What is Spirituality ?

Spirituality can often mean different things to different people. To some people it is about understanding yourself, to others it is about understanding and experiencing awe and wonder.

For us here at The Forest CE Federation, developing spirituality is about developing a person as a whole. It is concerned with the growth and development of each person as a unique, individual child of God; developing their sense of worth and helping them to understand their place in God's world. Spirituality is also concerned with how our faith, beliefs and values inspire us to act. Finally, spirituality is about how we experience God and how he meets with us.

At The Forest CE Federation, we see spirituality in many ways:

A sense of awe and wonder

Care for nature and living things

Wanting to love and to be loved by people

### **Awe and Wonder**

Children are born inquisitive, and it is our duty to nurture this natural curiosity and guide them towards looking at the world and noticing, with awe and wonder, the natural and man-made delights all around us. We want to encourage them to ask 'big questions' about life, religion, nature, science and any other area of fascination.

### **Caring for Nature and Living Things**

We provide many opportunities for children to learn about nature and the role they play in protecting our world. As a Church School Federation, this is especially important. We have a very active Eco Committee and School Council. Through science and topic work, children learn about the world and how they can care for living things.

### **Love**

We pride ourselves on our ethos of the Federation family. Through our Christian Values, we teach children to care for friends, family and the community. Indeed, our curriculum includes learning about those we love and who love us.

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.

**We develop spirituality in many ways including:**

**A daily act of Collective Worship:** Collective Worship is important to us as a school community. It is a great way to come together to listen to God's word, sing songs and pray together.

**Time for reflection:** During our Collective Worship, time is given for children to sit quietly and reflect on the message that they hear and think about ways in which they might live out what they have heard.

**Time for prayer:** Prayer is an important aspect of the school day. We have school prayers which we say at the end of the day and before lunch. Praying together helps us to worship together as a family. We also have a prayer area in school, each week there are different activities laid out for children to interact with, say their own prayers and have quite times of reflection

**Sharing our values:** Our Christian values form part of who we are as a school. Sharing these and encouraging each person to behave in a way that upholds our values is part of developing ourselves as individuals.

**A well taught RE Curriculum:** We have a well resourced and well planned RE Curriculum that not only teaches children about Christianity but supports their understanding of other faiths too.

**Celebrating as much as possible:** We love to celebrate the successes of our children. We have a special celebration worship on a Friday, where we celebrate the achievements and attitudes of our children. We also have a VIP gathering once a term, in which parents are invited.

<b>Spiritual Development</b>		
Aspects of Spirituality	School opportunities	School Development
A sense of the mystery of life:	Creative curriculum Literacy – Poetry/Stories Relationships education Challenges in maths 'Big' questions – RE/Philosophy Reflection corners Sacred spaces - visits	Reflection areas inside and out Further multi-cultural visits
A sense of choice, decision making and personal responsibility:	Junior Duke award Self-evaluation Group work – peer marking Ethos/School- All things are possible to one who believes Behaviour choices Continuous provision- independent learning Philosophy for children	Launch Junior Duke awards
A sense of awe and wonder:	Visits Curriculum Church visits Awareness of world – Global Neighbourhood Visitors to school Worship times Resources	Resources Further visits Link School

	Real life experiences	
A sense of awareness of there being something more to life than meets the eye:	Reflection 'Big questions' Stories Worship times Relationships Christian Symbols The Arts Philosophy/RE lessons	Symbols
<b>Spiritual Development</b>		
Aspects of Spirituality	School opportunities	School Development
A sense of love for the outside:	Play area / forest school/outdoor learning from R- Yr6 Off-site visits / walks / residential Arts Church visits Creativity/reflection days	Reflection garden areas
A sense of pattern, sequence and order:	Science/Music//Sport/Dance The Arts Behaviour policy Innovative curriculum Christian Year Collective Worship Visual timetables	Flexible timetables – continuous provision
A sense of enquiry and open mindedness:	Philosophy for Children RE lessons 'Big questions' Reflection time Show and Tell Self-evaluation/ peer assessment	Encouraging children to ask 'big questions'

	Christian values of tolerance and respect British Values	
A sense of life's joys and achievements:	Celebration Collective Worship Genuine achievement – high standards EYFS special moments Celebrations Inspirational speakers Fun curriculum Humour in lessons Children supporting planning and leading Collective Worship	
<b>Spiritual Development</b>		
Aspects of Spirituality	Opportunities	School Development
A sense of disappointment and failure, suffering and pain:	Bereavement , Disasters in news Collective Worship stories (Bible and multi-cultural) Supporting charities In lessons – failing is positive – you are learning	Behaviours for learning
A sense of others as feeling, thinking people:	Relationships with others Resolving conflicts Respect for each other – unique and special Caring for each other's feelings Worship Time - respecting Christian Values – sharing/giving/respecting Staff modelling – taking turns Behaviour policy – clear rules, rewards and consequences Global links – other than ourselves Buddy system	

	Playground buddies	
A sense of empathy with others:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social stories</li> <li>Social skills groups</li> <li>Peer support</li> <li>Role play</li> <li>Supporting charities</li> <li>Sportsmanship</li> <li>Emotional intelligence</li> <li>Provision mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Neighbourhood project</li> <li>Courageous advocates</li> </ul>
<b>Spiritual Development</b>		
Aspects of Spirituality	School opportunities	School Development
A sense of silence and reflection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise level in classrooms – Quiet working</li> <li>Reflection spaces throughout school</li> <li>Planning and preparation time for teachers</li> <li>Music to enter Collective Worship</li> <li>Collective Worship is a time for stillness and reflection about oneself, Jesus and others</li> <li>Worship time daily</li> <li>Thinking time for children and staff</li> <li>Calm school</li> <li>Professional development time for all staff to reflect on practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worship Times</li> <li>Work / life balance</li> <li>Wellbeing days for staff</li> </ul>

<p>A sense of self-worth and the worth of others:</p>	<p>Effort and achievement celebrated in displays High academic standards          No outsiders days          VIP awards          Global days/themed weeks          Ethos –All things are possible to one who believes          All children discussed regularly in staff meetings – learning styles          Teaching about Jesus and Christian Values          Celebration Collective Worship          Staff knowing all children well</p>	<p>No Outsiders days</p>
<p>A sense of self-confidence in expressing inner thoughts:</p>	<p>Philosophy          Innovative curriculum          Leading Collective Worship          Values of perseverance, hope          Courageous advocates</p>	
<p>A sense of the joy in life:</p>	<p>Innovative curriculum – real experiences          Sports/The Arts/Clubs          Federation opportunities – Large scale productions/residentials</p>	