



Policy on Spiritual Development 'Opportunity, success and enjoyment for all'



Rationale

We recognise and support the need to provide opportunities for our students' Spiritual - as well as Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Equally we recognise and respect the variety of understandings of 'spiritual' evident within our school community of students, parents, staff and governors – let alone within the wider community. Such variety is not surprising given that major dictionaries offer a wide and contrasting variety of definitions ranging from the clearly religious ("concerned with sacred or religious things" – Concise Oxford Dictionary) to the much more secular ("Of or pertaining to, emanating from, the intellect or higher faculties of the mind: intellectual" - Oxford English Dictionary)

This lack of consensus makes it all the more important that we should have a clear policy on the matter and offer guidance on this complex area to all colleagues

Purpose

This policy aims to ensure that the school provides high quality opportunities for students to approach and explore the 'spiritual' from a variety of perspectives; to develop a personalised understanding and appreciation of their place in their society, world and universe and to understand that human life in all its fullness is about more than the purely 'material'.

We seek to open, rather than close, young minds and to encourage the view that "to wonder is to begin to understand."

Commitments

The school will therefore:

1. Ensure that all staff are helped to understand that they have a role to play in supporting and assisting the spiritual development of students through work in their particular curriculum area, their work as part of the pastoral team, their relationships and their attitudes as expressed in word and action.
2. Develop and maintain a list of suggestions about how aspects of work in each subject area can promote spiritual development, recognising that there will inevitably be greater opportunities within some than within others.
3. Require departments to identify opportunities for the promotion of spiritual development within Programmes of Study and Schemes of Work.
4. Provide a framework within which tutorial time throughout all key stages contributes to the spiritual development of students.
5. Seek to ensure that students of compulsory school age (and post 16 students who have not formally 'opted out') take part in an act of collective worship on each school day and that most of these are of a 'broadly Christian nature' whether in large or small groups.
6. Provide guidance for staff on how 'worship' - the ability to celebrate and reflect on things held to be of worth – can be encouraged and undertaken in such a way as to be meaningful to all and require hypocrisy from none.

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