



## Our Christian vision and understanding of spirituality

### Our Christian vision is:

Training children to be confident, independent learners with enquiring minds, a life-long love of learning and an approach to life that reflects core biblical values and principles.

### It reflects a Christian understanding of God:

Our vision is based on Proverbs 22:6 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.'

Our vision recognises that our children are adored and valued by a loving God, creator of all, who has tasked us with 'training them up' in order that they may be successful in the future. The Bible makes several specific references to children with Proverbs 22 indicating that it is our responsibility to 'train' the pupils': spiritually, pastorally and academically. Our vision also recognises local issues with regards to concerning levels of mental health, employment and post 16 education and commissions us to do all we can to ensure our pupils do not become part of these statistics.

### It reflects our understanding of spirituality:

Through discussions with staff, parents and Governors, it has been agreed that spirituality considers the following:

- Consideration of where we have come from and where we are going
- Consideration of the purpose of our existence
- Connection with a 'greater being' or 'force' that cannot be experienced through physical senses or expressed through everyday language.
- Develops pupils' own faith and beliefs, providing them with opportunities to connect with God, nature and others and consider how this informs the choices they make and the values and principles by which they choose to live.

We are tasked with developing pupils' spirituality. Our vision will ensure that we provide opportunities for pupils to develop independence and confidence within their beliefs whilst providing space for enquiry and reflection into their understanding of God and the principles by which they live. Opportunities for prayer, quiet reflection and open discussion and dialogue are integral to our approach. We want to ensure pupils have a *life long* desire to spiritual development

### It reflects our belief about ourselves and each other:

As precious beings, created by a loving God, we recognise the uniqueness of each child and ensure that they develop the skills they need to flourish academically, physically, mentally and spiritually regardless of their background or individual needs.

### It reflects our belief about the world:

We live a vibrant, varied and beautiful world. Children are challenged to enquire: ask questions and reflect upon the world in which they live in order to develop their understanding. Through understanding comes responsibility and we ensure children learn through our curriculum and times of worship their responsibility to the environment, helping others and living well with one another.

### Our Christian vision is lived out:

We have a challenging yet engaging curriculum that not only develops the pupils academically but encourages them to make links between subjects, think for themselves and to develop their own morals and principles. We ensure pupils to develop a positive mindset towards education in order to become life-long learners. Our classroom routines develop confidence through having a 'no hands up' policy ensuring all children are prepared to answer questions yet also are prepared to say when they are unsure. Our learning environments are developed in a way to promote independence such that the pupils have models, prompts and examples to refer to instead of asking for help. Our curriculum encourages enquiry as children discover for themselves and encourages self evaluation and reflection. Each February, we hold a community month where pupils reflect on what they have learnt and engage in some form of practical service within a desire to make a difference within their community – local, national or global. Our approach to British Values, seeing how these are enshrined within the Bible enhances our work around biblical values and principles whilst our behaviour policy encourages children to reflect on which values they have not shown.

### Our Christian vision has been developed by:

Pupils, staff, governors, parents, St Margaret's church and governors. This was through reflecting on Proverbs 22:6 for our vision and Galatians 5:22-23 for our values.