



Blue Hills Federation



SPIRITUALITY STATEMENT SPRING 2023

The Blue Hills Federation

The Blue Hills Federation is a collective of three primary schools – Clunbury CE Primary School, Newcastle CE Primary School and St Mary's Bucknell CE Primary School. All three schools share one Executive Headteacher and one Governing Body. When using the term 'Blue Hills Federation' within this policy, it is in reference to all three schools. When policy only applies to one school that school will be named specifically. Newcastle CE Primary School does not have a nursery or a preschool, therefore any references to nursery or pre-school do not apply to Newcastle CE Primary School.

Our Vision

Proverbs 22:6 - Good News Bible

'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.'

We are a caring Church Federation bringing together and serving many communities. We provide nurturing environments that facilitates learning for all. We encourage everybody to become confident, sociable and responsible citizens who achieve to the best of their ability in preparation for a fulfilling future.

Our Values

Trust and Truth; Joy and Happiness; Love and Respect; Thankfulness; Friendship and Family; Perseverance and Resilience

What does spirituality mean?

It is very difficult to put into words what 'spirituality' actually is because it is a very personal experience. It differs from person to person, and often spirituality changes within people during their lifetime. Spirituality is not the same as having a religion or faith; a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith. Spirituality can be related to a special place, view, listening to a piece of music, finding comfort, with certain people, etc. It is a feeling of being at peace with one self and being in the moment. Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves, which is why it is very hard to define.

Our Federation teaches about spirituality and allows children to experience spirituality through awe and wonder, asking questions, inspiration and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of ourselves that grounds us. We allow for spiritual moments throughout the curriculum encouraging children to develop their spirituality through many different stimuli, activities and experiences.

When talking to children about spirituality we will refer to:

- A sense of awe and wonder
- Care for nature and living things
- Wanting to love and to be loved by people
- Our values
- Reflection – each school has their own reflection spaces, indoors and outdoors

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. It is about giving children the time to find the beauty in the everyday, such as smelling the flowers, listening to the birds, looking at the clouds, feeling the grass, taking the joy from the rainbow. 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. We have very active Forest School's and Gardening Club's. Through Forest School and our curriculum children learn about nature and living things, exploring the changing seasons and taking time to look after the world around us. This is enhanced by living in a beautiful rural setting.

Love

We are a very caring set of schools in our Federation and pride ourselves on our ethos of family. Through our school 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.

Our Values

Our values are Friendship and Family, Love and Respect, Trust and Truth, Joy and Happiness, Perseverance and Resilience and Thankfulness. All children understand and are encouraged to embrace these values both within school and the wider world.

How can this be fostered within a child?

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