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## St Thomas a Becket Federation Spirituality Statement

Rationale: How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision enable pupils and adults to flourish? (SIAMS IQ1)

### Spirituality defined

Spirituality has to do with "journeying, questioning, seeking. But it is also to do with the influence of God's Spirit ('spirituality') through whom we can see life and its experiences in fresh ways." Spirituality is also connected with learning to experience the 'extraordinary' in the ordinariness of our daily lives.

"The Word became flesh, and came to live right where we are". John 1:14

### How is Spirituality nurtured at St Thomas a Becket Federation?

Children's spiritual development is nurtured through all aspects of school life. It is about the relationships and the Christian values that we consider to be important, as well as the development of knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes. The list below show the many ways that Spirituality is developed in our schools.

- ❖ Time in the day for quiet and reflection - Christian Meditation and Mindfulness time in PSHE.
- ❖ Regular time for prayer timetabled throughout the day and independently through the use of our Prayer Spaces. Opportunities for children to contribute prayers during our Acts of Worship.
- ❖ Constantly reaffirm the importance of relationships through our Learning Code. How we talk to and relate with each other is fundamental. One of our Christian Values is 'respect' - to treat others as you wish to be treated.
- ❖ Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.
- ❖ Frequent opportunities for children to explore, express and share feelings. We utilise the 'JIGSAW' PSHE planning to support this across the federation.
- ❖ Experience a love of learning through an exciting broad and balanced curriculum.
- ❖ Reflect upon the world around them and show a sense of awe and wonder towards the natural world or human achievement.
- ❖ Reflect on the situations of others through role play and stories.
- ❖ Experience a wide range of whole school singing, group singing, music, art, drama and dance.
- ❖ Encourage each other to admit mistakes and to say sorry. Recognising and owning up to faults is an important healing and redemptive process.

- ❖ Encourage children to show kindness, caring and compassion, and to express these in practical ways, including charitable events and courageous advocacy.
  - ❖ Explore the 'Big Questions' through our RE lessons.
  - ❖ Read often to children and give them opportunities to discuss and reflect.
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- ❖ We have a planned programme for Acts of Worship across the federation which maps out themes across the year, based on our school Christian Values.
  - ❖ There is a daily act of worship taking different forms, and actively involving children.
  - ❖ Displays and pictures around the schools celebrate and encourage reflection and spirituality.
  - ❖ Our RE curriculum is inspiring and motivating.
  - ❖ Visits and visitors support all our work.
  - ❖ Both schools have a Worship Group of children who help to monitor, plan and lead worship at different points in the year.

From November 2024, we have adopted the Windows, Mirrors and Doors approach to spirituality. We will be using our Picture News Assemblies, aspects of our wider curriculum as well as seizing "in the moment|" opportunities to look out beyond our own experiences. We will provide time for reflection on these moments and we will be supporting the children to think about what they can do now in response to what they have learnt. Alongside this we will use a shared language within Acts of Worship and in our classrooms to help the children to continue to flourish within our schools.

Windows - the WOW (awe and wonder) and the OW (difficult situations) moments

Mirrors - the HOW (how does it affect us?) and the NOW (what can we do now?)

Doors - the VOW (what promises can we make about the future?) and the POW (what will we do?)

Impact: how do we know this is being effective?

Spirituality at St Thomas a Becket Federation has enabled pupils to take delight in the world around them; they can appreciate what they can see and are able to think about what lies beyond this, which in some cases manifests itself in faith/belief in God. The children are able to express their feelings and understand how each other might be feeling, including the impact on their behaviour on someone else's feelings. They have a strong sense of right and wrong and are keen that all children should be following the Learning Code and displaying the Christian Values of the school. The children are able to enjoy quiet and stillness during their times of reflection. They possess an active imagination and show joy in discovering new skills.