



*Part of the Slough and East Berkshire CofE Multi Academy Trust*

## **Eton Porny Church of England First School**

### **Statement for Spiritual Development**

*We are all created unique and special.*

*He made us all perfect having our own uniqueness.*

*1 Peter 4:10-11 'God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.*

*Use them well to serve one another'.*

#### **Spiritual Development at Eton Porny – A Christian Perspective:**

In the Bible, the term for spirit comes from the Hebrew word *'ruach'*, which has a range of meanings: spirit; breath; wind; life-giving. The Latin root *'spiritus'* also means *breath*.

As a Christian school we interpret this as encompassing the *'whole being'* – mind, body and spirit, in other words *'living life in all its fullness.'*

*'Spirituality...arises from a creative and dynamic synthesis of faith and life, forged in the crucible of the desire to live.....authentically, responsibly, effectively and fully.'* Alister McGrath, Christian Spirituality, p.9

Our School Christian Vision Statement states that *'We are all created unique and special.....God has given each of you a gift.....Use them well to serve one another.'*

A key part of this vision and belief, is to create a strong sense of inclusivity within our school community that allows children and adults to come together from different faiths and perspectives to consider and share different insights, issues and ideas within a safe, hospitable place. Learning to *'live well'* and *'disagree well'* together.

#### **Evidence of Spirituality:**

We endeavour to ensure that children develop a strong self-belief and enjoy good relationships with others explored and underpinned through our school Christian vision and values. We aim to create a fun, positive, caring and respectful environment which promotes the joy of learning. We encourage our children to express themselves and their feelings with empathy. We aim to develop a *'growth mind-set'* promoting imagination, curiosity and a real joy discovering new skills and knowledge, building resilience in the face of challenge. We look to promote a strong sense of moral purpose and a love of what is good. We encourage time for stillness and for quiet reflection. Opportunities for spiritual development are presented or naturally arise and are promoted through our rich, broad and balanced curriculum and the wider life of the school. We provide a wide range of experiential learning opportunities, that enable our pupils to questions, consider, reflect and respond, and consider their own values, beliefs and feelings and those of others working alongside or with them.