



# Colnbrook Church of England Primary School

## Statement for Spiritual Development

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” Joshua 1:9*

### **Spiritual Development at Colnbrook C. of E. Primary School – 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.’* Alistair McGrath, Christian Spirituality, p.9

Our School Christian Vision, which is rooted in scripture, states *‘Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go’*. Joshua 1:9

A key part of this central 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, open and welcoming environment. It enables all to *‘live well’* and *‘disagree well’* together and provides opportunity to learn from one another. The vision equips all in our community to be brave, develop resilience and overcome barriers so that all can flourish in their learning and work.

### **Evidence of Spirituality:**

Our school’s Christian vision and values enable children to develop a strong sense of inclusion and of self-belief. We aim to provide our children with a fun, positive and respectful environment which allows children to grow and develop socially, emotionally and academically. We promote a *‘growth mind-set’* approach and help children to build resilience when faced with challenge which is underpinned by our central vision scripture. We want children to develop a love of all that is good and look to promote a strong moral purpose through the curriculum and opportunities for worship and reflection. We encourage children to take time to be still and to pause and reflect both in worship and in the classroom. We are an inclusive school and strive to celebrate and enable children from different faiths and beliefs their own space to express themselves. 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.