

Appendix 10a

Spiritual development in the church school context: advice from the Anglican Dioceses of Canterbury and Rochester

In addition to the guidance given in 'Shaping the Spirit', which recognises that spiritual development is part of being human and that there are many ways to nurture and express this, Church of England schools must ensure that they are promoting and developing distinctively Christian spirituality. This duty derives from the religious character of the schools and their instruments of government. Consequently, the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools requires that these schools be judged by their effectiveness and distinctiveness as Church schools. Within the inspection framework, the school must demonstrate that the spiritual development of its pupils is shaped by Christian traditions and approaches and that Christian spiritual development is encouraged throughout the curriculum and management of the school.

Traditionally the word 'spirituality' has been used by Christians to refer to the practices and activities which they undertake in order to seek God's presence and to develop a relationship with God. The Christian understanding of God is that there is one God in three persons: God the Father and Creator; Jesus Christ, his incarnate Son; and the Holy Spirit, the power of God in the world. God is revealed by scripture, tradition and reason as the Father dwelling in unity with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Pupils' Christian spiritual development and experience should reflect this richness and diversity. They should consider the implications of their own faith position (whatever it is) and the faith of the Church throughout the curriculum, by a range of appropriate activities and challenges, in a spirit of exploration, inquiry and openness.

In order to develop their relationship with God, Christians:

- pray
- worship
- celebrate festivals
- read and reflect on the Bible
- read and reflect on devotional literature
- take part in the Sacraments
- listen to sacred music
- look at sacred art
- go on retreat
- go on pilgrimage

These Christian spiritual practices should be included in Church schools, particularly within Collective Worship and explored in the RE and wider curriculum. The school environment should also aim to enrich pupils' Christian spiritual experiences and awareness by way of symbols, displays, occasions for contemplation and quiet, and interactive prayer opportunities, like prayer-trees.

Resources that support the development of distinctively Christian spirituality include:

Pause for Reflection: a resource for spiritual development in schools: 15 ideas for creative, interactive displays to promote spiritual development in the primary school. Each display is fully explained with instructions for assembling the reflective corner, questions to ask the children and follow up discussion ideas. Cost £21.00.

Available from: Diocese of Gloucester REsource Centre, 9 College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LX.
Tel: 01452 410022 Extn 277/278 fax: 01452 421474 Email: jumpingfish@glosdioc.org.uk Order form: www.gloucester.anglican.org/downloads/160.pdf

Understanding Children Understanding God by Ronni Lamont, (SPCK 2007). A practical book that outlines current thinking on child development and spirituality, and brings them together to propose effective ways to work with children in the church. It engages with the ideas of Godly Play and provides interesting case histories to get you thinking. Cost: £12:99

Contact details:

Virginia Corbyn, Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, CT1 1NQ phone: 01227 459401 or vcorbyn@diocant.org

Jan Thompson, Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, St Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester, ME1 1SL phone: 01634 560000 or jan.thompson@anglican.org

Appendix 10b

Spiritual development in the church school context: Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark

For specific advice on spiritual (moral, social and cultural) development in Catholic schools in the Archdiocese contact:

Commission for Schools and Colleges, St Edward's House, St. Paul's Wood Hill, Orpington, Kent, BR5 2SR

phone: 01689 829331

fax: 01689 829255

e-mail: office@rcsouthwark.org.uk

Some useful resources:

Diocesan policy on Education in Human Love 2005 - available from the Commission

Educating together in Catholic Schools - a shared mission between consecrated and the lay faithful - can get a copy via the Commission

Evaluating the Distinctive nature of a Catholic School - CES - 1999. Available from the Catholic Education Service - <http://www.cesew.org.uk/index.asp?id=1>

Catholic Schools and other faiths - Bishop' conference 1997 Pub. by Matthew James Pub Ltd Tel no 01245 347710 - available for download from http://www.cesew.org.uk/uploads/documents/csof_other_faiths1997.pdf

The Spirituality of Leadership 2008 : ISBN 978-1-905566-08-2