

## Appendix 1

# Spiritual development within an educational context

## Spiritual

all pupils - not confined to religious beliefs or a particular faith



fundamental to human condition (to what it means to be human)



relationships with others/God



search for individual identity (to what it means to be me)



response to experience of life (making sense of life and living)



search for meaning and purpose and values by which to live  
(links with moral, social and cultural development)

Spiritual development involves two (some would say three) dimensions:

### 1. Looking inwards:

- personal identity and individual development including a sense of self and of identity (as an individual and part of different groups); personality and behaviour; emotional and aesthetic responses; developing qualities of character and behaviours; developing the conscience and the will.

### 2. Looking outwards:

- addressing different spiritual (including but not exclusively religious) responses to life and living including, for example, creativity, contemplation and reflection (prayer), personal commitment, the quest for meaning and for something 'beyond ourselves'.

### 3. Looking upwards:

- searching for God - the divine/numinous - however defined, understood or expressed - some would say that this is implicit within 'looking inwards' and 'looking outwards' and is therefore not a third dimension of spiritual development.

(NB: RE Today led a project on spiritual development for the secondary school, funded through the Templeton Foundation, which resulted in the production of a resource for teachers and students entitled 'Looking inwards, looking outwards' - see Appendix 12)

Appendices 1-11 are available to download from [http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/ask8/ask8\\_whole\\_school\\_psd.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/ask8/ask8_whole_school_psd.cfm)