

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY including EYFS DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL

This policy should be read in conjunction with: Pastoral Care Policy.

Durham High School is a Church of England Foundation and the Governors take seriously the vision of being a Christian School. The spiritual and moral development of each pupil is therefore central to the School's aims; the School aims to be a community that upholds Christian principles, to be a place where every member of the community is valued and where developing the potential of each pupil in mind, body and spirit is a priority.

The School welcomes pupils of all faiths and none. Every pupil is expected to participate fully in the spiritual life and education of the School. Pupils of faiths other than Christianity, or of no faith, are encouraged to grow in understanding their own beliefs as well as understanding the Christian principles and faith on which the School is founded. We aim to give pupils the ability to think about their own spiritual and moral decisions from their own faith perspective as well as considering the perspective of others.

The School has close links with the Diocese of Durham and Durham Cathedral.

Collective Worship

Collective worship plays a vital part in pupils' spiritual development and provides opportunities for them to learn about and experience Christian worship. Collective worship also develops a sense of community within the School and of being part of a wider national and global community.

Assembly takes place at least four times per week in both Junior House and Senior House. On the other day Junior House pupils either have a hymn practice or assembly and Senior House pupils have a PSHE or Tutorial session. Attendance is compulsory for all pupils and teaching staff.

Assemblies are conducted by staff, pupils or visitors, with pupils planning collective worship and taking part on a regular basis. In Senior House every Form Class is required to organise and lead at least one assembly a year. Junior House pupils also participate in Junior House assemblies. We also make opportunities for cross phase assemblies, with pupils from Senior House leading Junior House assemblies, and Junior House pupils contributing to Senior House assemblies.

Weekly classroom assemblies take place in Senior House. These are led by pupils and Form Teachers and are usually based on material supplied by the School Chaplain. Form Teachers also introduce specific collective worship themes appropriate to their Form Class. They may also use the opportunity to recognise any festivals being celebrated by pupils in the Form.

We aim to give opportunities for pupils and staff to experience Christian worship in a variety of settings. For example:

- Carol Service at Durham Cathedral for Years 3 to 13 and their families.
- Sixth Form Leavers' Service at Durham Cathedral or St Oswald's Parish Church. (Senior House pupils & parents)
- Junior House pupils also participate in the NSPCC Carol Service for Junior Choirs and Year 5 lead a Carol Service at Shincliffe Parish Church.
- Optional Communion Service for Senior House pupils. Anyone attending communion is invited to receive communion if they would usually receive it in their own church. All present are invited to receive a blessing. Pupils in Year 6 also attend at least one of these each year.
- Pupils help to plan and lead services, for example, choosing themes, writing and leading prayers and reading the Bible. Pupils who choose not to attend these optional services instead go to an assembly with an act of Collective Worship.
- A Year 7 Communion Service is planned and carried out by the pupils with the support of the Chaplain and the Religious Education Department as part of their learning about

Easter. Pupils attend the service and are invited to participate in the service at a level which they choose as individuals.

- Annual Senior House Communion Service. We celebrate with those who have been baptised and or confirmed in the year, through School or in their own churches.
- Pupils, their families and friends can also participate in after School and weekend services. These give extra opportunities to worship together as an extended School community.

We also encourage pupils to be reflective and find space in their busy lives. This can be spiritually refreshing and improve pupils' resilience to the ups and downs of life. The Quiet Room in the Hurworth Building provides the opportunity for any pupil who wishes, to pray in private or in a group outside the normal context of Collective Worship. This is a resource for pupils of all faiths and none, to worship or simply be quiet.

Further Opportunities for Spiritual Development

- In addition to the provision within the RE scheme of work all departments are required in their schemes of work to ensure that the spiritual life and ethical dimension of a topic is embraced.
- Confirmation classes are offered in School to pupils in Year 7 and above and pupils are usually confirmed with candidates from the Durham churches in the deanery.
- Several Christian groups are run for pupils throughout Years 3 to 13. These meet weekly for discussion, games and activities, time to reflect, to explore and experience faith and worship together. All are welcome and we sometimes have helpers from different church denominations.
- Curriculum subjects all play an important part in the School curriculum and these departments (in addition to RE and PSHE) are particularly conscious of their role in promoting spiritual development.

Moral Development

Moral education is seen as inextricably linked to spiritual development. Pupils' awareness of duties to each other and the local and wider community is consciously developed through the tutorial and PSHE programme, as well as in assemblies, RE and subject schemes of work. School is very aware that education about values takes place as much through the hidden as the formal curriculum and staff are conscious of their role in upholding Christian values in every aspect of School life.

Great emphasis is also placed on service to the community through the charity efforts of each Form Class and the School as a whole, through:

- Charities Committee
- Visiting speakers and the various voluntary service activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme;
- Events like the Junior House Bake Off and sponsored walks, which also provide opportunities to care for our local and global community;
- Overseas trips, providing opportunities to experience life of those in other parts of the world and support those in need in the global community, for example the Sports Tours to Barbados and Sri Lanka and Sixth Form trips to Vietnam and Malawi, both of which had a social action dimension.

Other Opportunities for Spiritual and Moral Development

The pupils have other opportunities to develop spiritually and morally in their contact both within the School and the wider community: through the 'Buddy' system, helping younger pupils with reading and Maths within School; and through community engagement and involvement with the numerous voluntary service activities including helping with primary school based projects, for example, Minimus, Science Sparks and the Year 5 Outreach Programme.