

## **SPIRITUAL AWARENESS**

### **1. Definition**

We define Spiritual Awareness as:

“The ability to appreciate the aspects of human experience which go beyond material existence”.

2. Following the Discussion Paper ‘Spiritual and Moral Development’ published by the National Curriculum Council in April 1993, we accept the following aspects of spiritual development:
  - personal beliefs
  - a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
  - experiencing feelings of transcendence
  - search for meaning and purpose
  - self-knowledge
  - relationships
  - creativity
  - feelings and emotions
3. We believe that the development of Spiritual Awareness should form an essential part of the experiences and opportunities which we provide for our students. All timetabled subjects, extra-curricular activities and the ethos of the school itself should contribute in different ways towards the development of the varied aspects of Spiritual Awareness.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

1. We believe that it is valuable for members of the school to gather together in large groups at certain times. This provides opportunities which would not otherwise exist for the following:
  - to share personally meaningful ideas and experiences which contribute to the spiritual and moral development of students
  - to experience aspects of worship
  - to develop a sense of the importance of belonging to the school community.
2. Since it is not practically possible to gather more than one Year Group together at a time, assemblies will be held at the beginning of each day of the week, one for each Year Group. After registration in the Hall, this leaves approximately ten minutes for the assembly from 8.50 am until 9.00 am.
3. A year plan will be produced which relates to significant events in the religious, national and school calendars.
4. Assemblies will be led by staff, students, Governors or visitors, at the invitation of the Head Teacher in accordance with the school’s guidelines for visiting speakers.
5. The following activities may be appropriate:
  - a short talk, especially of a personal nature
  - a reading
  - a short performance of drama, dance, gymnastics or movement
  - live or recorded music
  - spoken or silent prayers
  - corporate singing.
6. Entry and exit from assemblies should be as quiet, orderly and calm as possible, in order to create an atmosphere conducive to reflection and thoughtful response to the assembly. Where appropriate, suitable music should be played.
7. Some time may also be given to the celebration of the success of students in the Year Group or in raising matters of concern. This should occur at the beginning of the assembly unless this provides a relevant contribution to the assembly theme.
8. Similarly, where notices need to be given out, this should be at the beginning of the assembly, unless the notice is relevant to the assembly theme itself.