


Bishop Bridgeman Ethos Group

Spiritual Development

3rd July 2019



Welcome to our presentation today. We will be looking at children's spiritual development and what it means to us and what it looks like at our amazing school, Bishop Bridgeman Church of England Primary School.



"I want you woven in to a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God"
Colossians 2:2

On 14th June we had the privilege of working with a lady called Bee Weir who taught us to use the rigid heddle loom we bought with some of the money we make through our Ethos Cabin. Weaving is just one of the many ways we can explore or spiritual development. We completed the art piece last week. It became very clear to us that as a school community how closely we are woven together in love.

As an Ethos Group we have come up with our own definition of what we consider to be spiritual. We feel spiritual development is "a way of getting to know yourself more, a way of getting to know others more and a way of getting to know God more." We feel this applies to all faiths in our school. Through discipleship and developing your relationship with God.



Bishop Bridgeman Ethos Group



Reflection

Questioning

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development our Ethos Group definition: "A way of getting to know yourself more, a way of getting to know others more and a way of getting to know God more!"



Happiness Tree

What does spiritual development mean to me?

Self - awareness



Walk a mile in someone else's shoes!

It is important to look at what makes us human, looking at our imagination, expression, curiosity and how comfortable we are with ourselves as well as others.

Exploring spiritual development, we should allow children to ask questions, how ever big or small. No question is a silly question.

We can grow and develop in our own spiritual development by trying to 'walk a mile in someone else's shoes' to think how they might be feeling or experiencing things differently.


We felt this was so important we developed an activity in one of our books to explore this.


In Ethos we encourage all children and adults to think about, explore, express and expand their thoughts and questions about life and things that are important to them.

Reflection, prayer and worship are a vital tools to use in spiritual development. They provide a safe space, belonging and time to think through how we feel and how we respond to the world around us.

What does spiritual development mean to me? Here are a few personal examples...

What does Spiritual Development Look Like at BB?








Living out our core Christian Values




Ethos trip to Chester Zoo

WOW and OW

Relationships and Trust
Sharing in a safe, loving environment.



Space

So what does spiritual development look like at Bishop Bridgeman? Let us give you a flavour of how we approach a subject that adults find so difficult but actually it is quite simple!

Firstly, we live our our core Christian values everyday, in all that we do. Our values provide the building blocks for our spiritual development, supporting us in the **WOW** moments of our lives and the **OW** moments too!

There are soooooo many WOW moments in our lives at schools and at home! WOW moments can be found everywhere.... Our whole school events such as St Georges Day, we experienced so much fun and friendship, especially when Mr Ryan took the role of the damsel in distress! When the teachers surprised us with their version of a nativity play! We had a massive dinosaur visit our school (who we all thought had eaten Mrs Pilling!! That's a very funny story we can tell you later, poor Archdeacon David will never be the same again!) Ethos Saturday school and all the activities we carry out and school residential trips. In the OW moments we support each other, listen to each other, allow people to be upset, restore friendships and build each other back up.

The relationships we have with other children and adults are really important in our spiritual development as we explore what it means to trust others, love others and develop friendships with others. We learn to forgive and hope to be forgiven and think about the responsibility we have when others put their trust in us. At school we have a safe, loving environment to explore, make mistakes and learn!

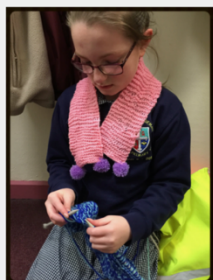
We have held a knit and natter group now for 2 years, every day at breakfast club, play time and lunch time. We can knit in Mrs Pilling s office or the prayer space in the hall. We use the time to chat or be quite and talk to God. Sometimes after a busy morning it helps me to have the right mind-set for the afternoon.

Sometimes if I have had a rushed morning it is good to calm down and knit at breakfast club.



Finding peace within yourself.

Knit and Natter



Reflecting on life and the world.



Ask big questions

Now we can use the loom are intention is to teach as many children as we can and allow them to explore.



Weave and Relax



Team work



Beauty

WOW!



Create



Breathe



Individual



Calm

Believe in yourself

Ethos Cabin
Fundraising and charity

Be Brave

Explore what makes us whole

What does Spiritual Development Look Like at BB?

Through spiritual development we learn to believe we can do anything! Just spend 30 seconds looking at the picture of the kitten we see a tiger!

There are times when we all have to be brave! Either in a difficult situation or being thrown into something that is out of our comfort zone (Believe me, Mrs Pilling does that to us all the time!!)

We are very fortunate to have our own shop – The Ethos Cabin. The cabin opened at our ethos conference last July, before that we had an ethos trolley. The money we raise supports our other ethos work such as developing prayer spaces, providing other experiences in school and supporting local charities such as the local animal destitute centre. We are also paying for the DJ at this years Year 6 prom!! You will find pocket money toys, healthy snacks and things that support spiritual development and our prayer life. Please take the time to go and have a look throughout the day.

Through spiritual development we can explore what makes us whole, the bit of us we can't see. In our second Ethos book we wrote an activity using doughnuts to think about the bit of us we can't see. The doughnut represents you as a person, mind and body, the part of you that can be seen. The hole in the middle represents the part of you that cannot be seen, the inner you or spirit. If you take a doughnut and think of all the things that make up the 'hole' i.e. the things that are important to you, the things that make your life happy and the things that you believe in



Finding the Extraordinary on the Ordinary



Spiritual development is also finding extraordinary moments in the ordinary moments of our lives. From cleaning church to sharing a cup of tea and a cake. From drawing in the sand with a pebble to marvelling in God's creation.

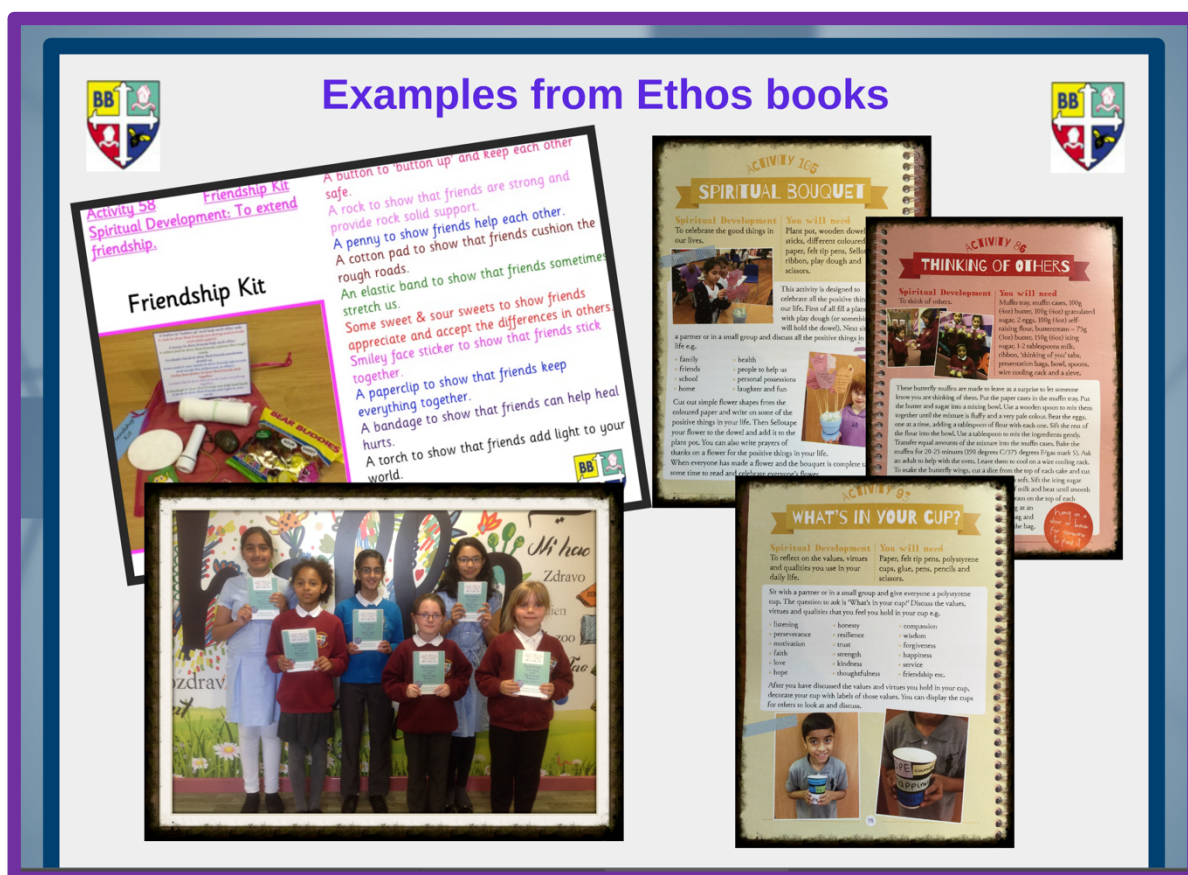


Bishop Bridgeman 100 experiences before 11 yrs 3/4





We believe spiritual development is all about the things we experience. At Bishop Bridgeman the children were asked what things they wanted to experience before they left BB and moved onto secondary school. This is the booklet we came up with, here are a few of the 100 experiences we chose.


- Build a den
- A belief that I am amazing
- Experience different cultures
- Bake a cake
- Realise my talents
- Sing
- Paint
- Go pond dipping
- Present to others
- Feel comfortable to make a mistake
- Conquer a fear
- Believe in your dreams
- See magic every day
- Laugh
- Feel valued and loved



We are passionate that spiritual development is seen as something that we can all access and respond to. It is the way we live our lives, our actions and emotional responses. As you will be aware we have written and published 2 books, the second of which is devoted to practical


activities that enable children to travel on their spiritual journey. We learned that our book is being used in hospitals with patients that have mental health problems and that it has enabled them to deal with very difficult emotions. Our books have also supported church Sunday schools and Messy Church. This year have been gathering activities and researching different ways we can pray. We are hoping to write book three next year to support children in their prayer life.

 **Our Spirituality Connects us Together and with God** 



Mirror

The mirror enables us to look inside ourselves. Our qualities, strengths, characteristics and fears.



In school, as part of our worship sessions, we use a spiritual development technique using a mirror, window and door. We have a large mirror, window and door in our school hall. The mirror represents looking inside yourself and exploring inner thoughts and feelings.



The window represents looking onwards out into the world, towards others.



Window



The window represents looking out into the world. Looking out at situations and others, how we interact and how others interact with us.



Door



The door represents traveling on a new path or dealing with a new situation in our lives



The door represents traveling on a new path or dealing with a new situation.

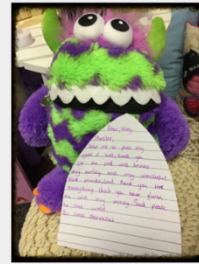
At our last Ethos Conference we included 9 prayer spaces as an additional activity. We wanted to create prayer spaces to provide a safe, reflective space for children and adults to explore spirituality through prayer and quite time. Last academic year we concentrated on prayer spaces. The prayer space was set up in church for our family service on the second Sunday of the month. We talked about the prayer space and the theme during the service and invited the congregation to use the prayer space after the service to have their cup of tea in, write a prayer, talk to a friend or just experience some quite time. Once the prayer space had been launched in church we then had a 'pop up prayer space' in school. The pop up prayer space was up for 2 days only and appeared anywhere inside or outside school.



We have have included information on our prayer spaces throughout the year in the information you received in worship this morning. We measure the impact of this by some of the children's and adult's responses.

Prayer Spaces September - Doors

Impact



Theme for September
"Opening The Door to Prayer"



Here is a short video of our prayer spaces last academic year.

Prayer Spaces



Impact

Prayer Spaces

Impact

"Being in the prayer space makes me feel calm and peaceful."

"Prayer spaces make me feel happy."

"Prayer spaces have helped me to be calm and get to know who I am more"

"I enjoy going in the prayer spaces because it is a place where I can go if I am worried and ask God for help."

"It is a safe place."

"I like the prayer spaces because I can think more about things."

"I feel better when I have been in the prayer space."

"I made a prayer space at home and me and my sister go in it and relax. We like talking to God."



Prayer Buckets



Bouncy Ball Prayer Bucket

Warm and fuzzy prayer Bucket

Button Prayer Bucket

Mini prayer quilts

Prayer bucket of prayer bottles

Tea and Biscuit Prayers

Prayer bucket of prayer bands

Worry Monster Prayer Bucket



This academic year we have continued to use our prayer spaces. We have concentrated this year, on producing prayer buckets that our prayer space leaders can take out onto the yard, in classrooms and even take them home to use with our families. We produced a new prayer space in the hall which is permanent but there will be a different prayer bucket every 2 weeks.

You can see from the slide the many ideas we have planned for prayer buckets as we go through the year.

Bouncy ball prayer bucket – focusing on the fun God brings in our lives.

Tea and biscuit prayer rug mugs – focusing on being still and just talking to God.

Warm fuzzy prayer bucket – gloves and socks focusing on the warmth and love God and our families provide for us.

Prayer bottles prayer bucket – focusing on all the many things that shine in our lives.

Mini Prayer quilt prayer bucket – focusing on the things we may need help with and comfort with.



Our 6th Ethos conference in July 2018 took the form of an Interfaith conference. We were privileged to have Bishop Stephen Conway as our guest for the day. We are passionate that our Ethos work, our mission and discipleship promote collaboration and love between all. We will play our Ethos Conference video for you now. You will see many, many moments where children and adults shared in WOW moments and carried out experiences that enabled them to travel further on their spiritual journey.

A few years ago decided to create a piece of art that children of all faiths could reflect on and every time you look at it you find something different. We used a whole variety of beads and buttons to symbolise where you can find God; in animals, in the seasons, in new life, in values, in children, in sports, in sea creatures, in people being creative e.g. baking, sewing and art, in colour and texture, in celebrations such as Christmas and Easter, in people who help us such as doctors and nurses.

In other words, God can be found EVERYWHERE. We made our treasured cross in our Saturday Ethos School and in our Thursday Ethos after school club. This is a practical example of how we can express our spirituality and is still used in many ways in everyday school life.





Our Projects for 2019-2020



Deliver worship training to the staff and Governors.



Continue with charity fundraising

Continue with prayer spaces at St Philip's church, Bolton Parish church and in school.

Carry out research into the impact of our Ethos work and conferences over the last 9 years.



Prayer Bucket every 2 weeks.

Ethos Super Learning Day September 2018

Write our 3rd book to support children's prayer life.

Ethos Conference
1st July 2020

This year is going to be as busy as ever! One of the main things we will be working on is research into the impact of our work over the last 9/10 years. We have produced a questionnaire that we would like to send out to all the schools that have been to our Ethos Conferences and hopefully visit some to interview children and adults. We would like to celebrate with other schools how they have taken our ideas and have developed their own. Also to discuss ideas of things we can carry out in the future.

We are delivering a staff meeting after school in September for our teachers, teaching assistants and governors on how to lead effective worship and spirituality.

We have also brought copies of our books. Book 1 - £10, Book 2 £15. If you buy both books they are £20 – A bargain!

Thank you for listening to our presentation today. Have you any questions for us?

