



Barwell C of E Academy Thoughtful Friday 2017-2018

We want happy, confident, successful children.

We want all children, regardless of their individual circumstances, to be **happy, confident and successful**. Part of helping children on their journey to becoming the **best version of themselves** includes developing their knowledge and understanding of **spirituality** by providing a safe and secure environment in which to **reflect** and share amongst their peers. As a church school, we believe that children should be explicitly given time to develop their own sense of character. Therefore at the end of the school week, children will engage in an act of **collective worship** in their class, allowing the whole school to the end the week in a **positive, confident** manner.

Our ambitious target for Thoughtful Friday this academic year is: The vast majority of children will have a highly developed interpretation of spirituality and develop a personal spirituality.

Aims and objectives:

The aim and objective is to provide a weekly, timetabled whole school act of collective worship in individual classes. Providing this opportunity within classes allows children a safe environment to share thoughts and feelings and develop their interpretation of spirituality. Focusing on a different Christian Value of our school each half term provides an avenue to exploring different themes within spirituality. By placing this act at the end of the week, the whole school enters the weekend in a positive, uplifted, calm mood. This time for reflection also provides an excellent opportunity to develop 'the child's voice'.

Thoughtful Friday:

The structure of Thoughtful Friday should be the same in every class without exception:

- It starts promptly at 3.00pm on a Friday afternoon
- If inside, classroom lights are switched off
- All people in the room (adults and children) sit on the floor in either a circle or other arrangement which allows for face-to-face engagement – unless leading the JW group, all adults should be involved in this activity.
- The leader of the class will light a candle whilst the group says our school's gathering prayer. (See risk assessment in Appendix 1)
- There is a discussion time here based on the Christian Value for that half term in which children can be encouraged to share thoughts and feelings but do not have to
- The session will end with a prayer initiated by an adult or child.

Using our Christian Values to develop spirituality:

Spirituality is a complex concept to fully understand which many theologians argue over. It can be loosely defined as a sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves, and it typically involves a search for meaning in life. As such, it is a universal human experience—something that touches us all. In order to develop our children's personal spirituality, we will take a graduated approach to each Christian Value through a half term. For example, if looking at Friendship, week one may focus on what it means to have a friend and how it feels. Subsequent weeks may explore friendship in the wider environment, such as school, community, country and the wider world. Finally, the aim would be to look at friendship through faith in non-human form, for example relationships people have with God, pets, cuddly toys and the sense of guidance or special feelings they experience from these. Big questions should be used by adults to encourage deeper thinking.

Appendix 1:

What is the risk?	Level of risk/likelihood	Actions to alleviate risk	Level of risk/likelihood following action	Future actions
Child being burnt	Low/unlikely	<p>Lead adult to light candle and place lit candle on a high surface away from the group.</p> <p>Children must never be left unattended with lit candle.</p> <p>Children to remain seated at all times that the candle lit.</p>	Low/unlikely	
Adult being burnt	Low/unlikely	<p>Lead adult to light candle and place lit candle on a high surface away from the group.</p> <p>A suitable, long handled lighter to be used for lighting the candle.</p>	Low/unlikely	
School fire	High/moderate	<p>Lead adult to light candle and place lit candle on a high surface away from the group.</p> <p>Lead adult to be responsible for ensuring the candle is fully extinguished before leaving the room.</p>	Low/unlikely	