

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY DEVELOPMENT CASE STUDIES 2021-2022

VAT and ODST Schools –Wantage area School Chaplaincy Development Lead - Rachel Woods

SCP Core vision and strategy strands: Chaplaincy Presence, Staff and Pupil-led Chaplaincy development, Core vision enrichment, creative approaches and resources for nurturing spirituality and wellbeing, support of schools leaders with SIAMS related development.



CASE STUDY 2 ST NICHOLAS PRIMARY, EAST CHALLOW, (VAT)

St Nicholas C of E Primary is a smaller than average, rural primary school with 94 pupils on roll. The school became an academy and joined the Vale Academy Trust (VAT) in October 2014. The socio-economic structure of the school is mixed with approximately a quarter of the pupils eligible for free school meals. This is twice the Oxfordshire average. The majority of pupils are White British. Four pupils have a statement of special educational needs and 8 pupils attend from a traveller site in the village. (SIAMS inspection 2017)

ENRICHMENT FOCUS

The collaboration with SCPL is driven by [SIAMS inspection 2017](#) and the following identified 'areas for development' (SIAMS inspection report):

- Provide high quality experiences in the curriculum so that pupils can develop and deepen their spirituality and express their thoughts in more depth using a rich variety of styles and media.
SCPL offer:
 - **jointly planned with local clergy: 'The Good Samaritan' framework for core vision-themed pilgrimages (KS1 and KS2) between school and church involving BeSpace and OTB.**
 - **Taster outdoor reflection linked to gardening with Group of Y4's [see sample resource here](#)**
- Provide opportunities for pupils to plan and lead worship so that they can clearly identify the distinctive features of Anglican tradition
 - **Space Makers training and resources signposted as a tool for sustainable whole school engagement in spiritual practices that staff and pupils lead**

TIME INVESTED

0.5 day per week May to July 22 inclusive

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Initial meeting - Listening and Connecting

SCPL had initial meeting (online) with HT Heather Richards to consider the school's SIP and SIAMS priorities from previous inspection (SIAMS 2017) See 'enrichment focus' above with SIAMS priorities and related SCPL initiatives.

SCPL shared vision and collaborative approach of SCP to support these endeavours which are designed to enable opportunities for development of sustainable primary chaplaincy initiatives through resourcing staff and pupils, with the ongoing partnership of the local church, BeSpace and OTB initiatives.

SCP Leadership and Strategy Agreed with HT and Deputy HT

SCPL's contributed the following:

1. [Spirituality policy](#) and examples of good practice

2. Spirituality baseline audit for using as a 'spirituality survey'. Outcome would contribute useful evidence to SIAMS portfolio and forward planning. Wantage CE have example and outcomes to share.
3. [Spiritual characteristics review document](#) for SLT with SIAMS strands
4. Jointly drafted template for themed pilgrimage 'The Good Samaritan' KS1 and KS2 Core vision and values enrichment via for start of school year. [See core vision pilgrimage template here](#)
5. Timetabling it in September would enable it to be a powerful gateway to the school year, via a creative collaboration between school, church leaders and members, OTB and BeSpace teams. The story is itself about a personal pilgrimage and the virtues development it evidences, so lend themselves perfectly to a pilgrimage-based exploration. Please find a copy attached.
6. [Recommended Space Makers](#) – contemplative toolkit training opportunity for HT, staff and local clergy. HT and DHT interested in whole staff school training. Shared contacts for HT to follow up
7. Offered taster outdoor reflection for Y4's linked to gardening process.

Core vision enrichment – 'Good Samaritan' themed KS1 and KS2 pilgrimage between school and church in partnership with local church, BeSpace and OTB

- SCPL engaged local clergy in core vision-themed pilgrimage vision. Jointly drafted Good Samaritan themed pilgrimage plan for HT to consider. [See core vision template here](#)
- SCPL liaised with BeSpace CE Kirsty Morgan to explore possibilities for developing core vision reflective materials.
- Local clergy liaising with BeSpace and OTB volunteers to brief them of pilgrimage opportunity as being creative alternative to annual BeSpace, and OTB collaborating in facilitating pilgrimage
- Encouraged the use of pilgrimage as multipurpose enrichment tool, not just as an accessible, tried and tested traditional spiritual practice.

Outdoor reflection linked to gardening practice

SCPL offered outdoor reflection to support Y4 pupils with spiritual development through gardening and worked in the school vegetable garden with TA/Forest School leader/Gardening coordinator Ms Palmer on a Thursday afternoon for 1hr with 6x Y4 pupils.

Alongside supporting the pupils in engaging with practical gardening, pupils were invited to stop and pause and participate in short contemplative exercises to enable them to connect with the natural environment and spiritual senses. [see sample resource here](#)

OUTCOMES GALLERY

Photos from gardening and reflection need school to add

IMPACT ASSESSMENT STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

HT **tbc**

SLT/ Class teachers **tbc**

TA's **tbc**

Pupils Y4 Gardening & Pupil led Chaplaincy team group

"I enjoyed practical gardening and then stopping to think about what you are doing?."

"I enjoyed the team work in the gardening. The reflections calmed me down."

"I enjoyed it when we stood outside in the rain and we could feel the rain on our fingers and think about everything around us."

"I liked when we were doing the reflection in the rain because you could feel the raindrops on your hand, catching the raindrops and thinking about good things in our lives, like plants need to catch the rain on their leaves and in the soil around them."

"Even though not everyone likes standing in the rain it helped us think about how everything in nature even us, needs the rain."

"I liked the experience of watching things grow and learning how they do that."

"I enjoyed the reflections because it gave me a moment to think about these things and how it helps me."

"I enjoyed feeling the rain how it helps the garden grow. It helped me relax. It felt that you could be anything we want but we need to let things go like not having confidence to develop, which is like letting the rain drops go."

Clergy

"The SCP presence has helped the school to build spiritual literacy and growth into their core vision and values".

"Growing church involvement and deepening the shared journey"

"SCP presence has been very positive, want to learn more; an effective vision and strategy to grow school-led Chaplaincy teams.

"Pilgrimage concept is joined up and supportive, responding to the SIAMS priorities and enabling collaborative work between all stakeholders e.g. school community, church leaders and OTB, BeSpace volunteers"

"The initiatives are helping the school to develop its spiritual, theological understanding and expression of its core vision"