Chaplaincy at St Luke's seeks to support the college in nurturing its distinctive nature as a Church of England Voluntary Controlled College by helping pupils to:

- see themselves in a positive way
- explore spirituality and faith
- develop their ability to think for themselves about big issues
- nurture their emotional life, particularly in how they express their feelings
- help them to find space for moments for stillness and reflection
- identify the right way to think and act towards themselves and others
- explore what a person 'is' and what gives value and identity to human life
- recognise and respect the diversity of the different cultures represented in the school and wider community
- explore the potential for using art and other creative activities to explore their values and beliefs
- the development of personal qualities which are valued in society: thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, interdependence and self-respect

Chaplaincy is offered to pupils, teachers, support staff and parents as needed.

We believe the college is a community and, as such, needs to establish core values which include:

- tolerance
- respect
- personal responsibility
- recognition of the contribution that each individual makes
- fairness and justice
- willingness to acknowledge others' points of view
- empathy; cooperation; consideration for other people

The College strives to create a **community** where **effective teaching and learning** can take place. It aims to be a place where pupils can reach their potential and so be able to access further educational opportunities and choices in the future.

It is no secret that the **ethos** of a college, its **values** and **vision**, are a critical factor in creating that community. Consequently **spiritual, moral, social and cultural** (SMSC) development is of real importance.

Chaplaincy at St Luke's seeks to **support** the college in providing aspects of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, with people, resources and support in this vital area of college life.

Rather than cause division or controversy, we believe that a **positive spiritual environment** can create a **positive college community** which embraces all its members - pupils, teachers, staff, governors, and parents - from all backgrounds and beliefs.

What is spiritual development in the context of a college?
OFSTED have defined it as

"The aspect of inner life through which pupils acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth.

It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to existence, valuing a non-material dimension to life, and intimations of an enduring reality. 'Spiritual' is not synonymous with 'religious'; all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development.

Where schools foster successfully pupils' self awareness, understanding of the world around them, and spiritual questions and issues, they will be developing a set of values, principles and beliefs - which may or may not be religious - to inform their perspectives on life and their behaviour."

How Chaplaincy at St Luke's supports pupils and staff

Assemblies

We use **story telling**, **humour**, **meditation**, **drama**, **art** and a huge range of other art forms to create a space in the college day where pupil's personal development can take place. Even though there is normally less than 10 minutes, we have found that a well-planned assembly can make an **important impact** upon pupils, providing opportunities for them to share what is meaningful and important to them and giving time for reflection and self evaluation.

We always ensure that our assemblies are relevant. We also believe that it is important to recognise pupils will be at different stages of spiritual development and that they should feel able to **respond and participate** at their own level.

Assemblies can explore areas such as:

- forgiveness and saying sorry
- making choices and consequences
- anger and other emotions
- parents and family issues
- comment and moral perspective on current issues and news events
- special days in the yearly calendar: Christmas, Easter, St Luke's Day, Remembrance Day
- bullying and teasing
- peer pressure

Pastoral Care for Pupils in Need

For pupils to be able to learn effectively and **flourish** in the college community, they may need support and help facing personal or family problems. The Chaplaincy team is able to offer pastoral care alongside the school pastoral system. In particular, where pupils need short or long term support, our team is able to work **one-to-one** with them, liaising with tutors, Heads of Year and parents where needed.

We are able to support pupils facing difficult family situations, dealing with personal emotional issues or coping with loss. Our focus is on **reflective listening**, helping a young person articulate their thoughts and feelings, leading to an understanding of the possible ways forward.

Religious Education Curriculum Input

Members of the chaplaincy team are able to get involved in the **RE curriculum** at all levels. We can provide resources which can engage and enthuse pupils and therefore support and enhance the work of the RS department in topics specific c to the Christian faith, like the miracles of Jesus, to more general topics like symbolism, pilgrimage and euthanasia. Working closely with staff, we always seek to provide lessons which **fit clearly within the prescribed syllabus** at Keystages 3 and 4 and which encourage pupils to think about their own beliefs and values as well as those of others. Our input is characterised by **pupil participation**, innovative illustrations, use of multimedia and humour.

Informal Pastoral Support

The Chaplaincy team is also available to offer **detached** work within a college context. Often informal contact with pupils during tutor times, breaks and after college can be a positive opening to further work and support with them. We believe our role enables us to relate to students differently from staff or other professionals, creating **new opportunities** to help pupils.

SMSC Projects

As Chaplaincy at St Luke's develops we hope to be able to work towards **particular projects, events and activities** which can **contribute** to the school's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. For example, using the arts, media, sports or links with the developing world, a pastoral chaplain's work could involve

- college theme weeks on issues like equality or social justice
- pupil art displays on moral and spiritual themes
- trips to cultural sites
- partnership projects between pupils and teenagers in the developing world

The Chaplaincy Team…

James Grier

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