

Dacre Braithwaite CE (VA) Primary School Spirituality Statement



Rationale

Our vision statement comes from John 10:10, "I have come so that you may live life to the full". A key part of that belief is to nurture children's spiritual awareness and develop each child's spiritual character.

What is spirituality?

Spirituality concerns a person's relationship with themselves, with others, with God (or the transcendent), and with nature and the environment. These four elements: self; others; transcendence and beauty form the basis of our work with children in developing a strong sense of spirituality.

It is also vital that all of the adults in school also see the need to develop their own spirituality for their own wellbeing, and so that they can effectively support and help our children and each other.

The four elements - what these consist of:

Self

- Awareness of feelings; ability to reflect and express
- Awareness of our uniqueness; happiness with who we are
- Gratitude for the things we have and the person we are
- Exploration of personal faith
- Development of imagination and creativity

Others

- Empathy and understanding; respect, tolerance
- To love and be loved (loving your neighbour)
- Making a difference; duty

Transcendence (Beyond)

- Encountering/experiencing God (having a sense of what lies beyond the material/physical)
- Ability to formulate and discuss the 'Big Questions' (eg about life, death, suffering, nature of God)
- Opportunities for prayer, connecting with God
- Making sense of the world

Beauty

- Developing a sense of awe and wonder
- Enjoying the miracles of everyday life
- Taking time for what really matters
- Appreciating beauty in art, music, nature and all areas of the curriculum

How we aim to develop a strong sense of spirituality

1. Have regular time in the day for quiet and reflection. This might be listening to a story, lighting a candle in assembly, going for a walk
2. Provide many opportunities for creativity and using the imagination

3. Valuing play opportunities
4. Singing often, especially with others.
5. Ensuring regular time for prayer. This can take many forms, but should include being thankful, saying sorry. Allow children the opportunity to open themselves to God.
6. Provide frequent opportunities for children to explore, express and share feelings. We use the SEAL structure to support this across the school.
7. Constantly reaffirm the importance of relationships. How we talk to and relate with each other is fundamental.
8. Provide opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms, and appreciate the connections and unity in the world
9. Encourage each other to admit mistakes and to say sorry. Recognising and owning up to faults is an important healing and redemptive process.
10. Encourage children to show kindness, caring and compassion, and to express these in practical ways. (eg: how we treat each other every day; charitable works; looking after pets)
11. Explore the 'Big Questions' through different links to the curriculum
12. Read often to children, and give them opportunities to discuss and reflect. This includes both secular and religious texts, in particular the Bible

Structures to support and develop spirituality:

- Opportunities are planned across our curriculum.
- Our reflective journals are used regularly as a focal point for reflection
- We have a planned programme for Collective Worship across the school. This maps out themes across the year, based on our school values and 'Values for Life'
- There is a daily act of collective worship taking different forms, and involving children
- Displays and pictures around the school continually celebrate and encourage reflection and spirituality
- Our RE curriculum is inspiring and motivating
- Visits and visitors support all our work

Impact: how do we know this is being effective?

Spiritually developed children love and accept themselves and enjoy good relationships with each other. They take an interest and delight in the world around them; they are open to what lies beyond the material (this may manifest itself in faith/belief in God). They are able to express and understand feelings, they have a strong moral sense and a love of what is good. They are able to enjoy quiet and stillness, they possess an active imagination, and show joy in creativity and discovering new skills.

Policy	Date of Approval	Date of renewal
Spirituality Statement	July 2020	November 2026