

Spirituality Policy

Date: September 2025

Review Date: September 2027



‘Love your neighbour as yourself ‘ Luke 10:27

“The spiritual life does not remove us from the world
but leads us deeper into it.” (Henri Nouwen)

Our Vision

Just like the parable of the Good Samaritan, we provide an inspirational education in which every child is loved, valued and nurtured, so that they aspire, flourish and achieve their full potential. Our hope is that our children leave our school as confident, curious and compassionate young people who ‘flourish through friendship’. We hope they challenge injustice and speak for those who struggle to speak for themselves. We do all of this through our values of Love, Community, Respect, Ambition and Trust within our Christian ethos as a Church of England School, so all children become the best they can be.

We believe that spirituality is a core thread that runs through our school and we attach great importance to it for both children’s development and for the growth and well-being of all within our school community..

We aim for children, and adults, to grow in their ability to:

- be guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand to defend them
- be self-aware and empathise with the experience of others in the school and wider community

- love themselves, care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve, and find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges
- exercise imagination and creativity, appreciate beauty in the world and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder
- be intrigued by mystery and be open to an awareness of the transcendent in the whole of life
- be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection/meditation/prayer
- be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves and to forgive others
- be willing to take risks and to reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success
- demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions
- appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life like friends and family, and show generosity towards others.

(From David Smith's work on Spiritual Capacities)

Our working definition of Spirituality

As a staff, we have agreed on a definition of spiritual development in our school community to support us as we talk about spirituality.

Spirituality is not about being more spiritual or religious aware. It is about being more open and aware of the awesomeness that is presented around us. It is about allowing ourselves time to see, to hear and to feel that there are things to wonder about, things to reflect upon and things to respond to and experience beyond what we think we already know about ourselves and the world around us. Spirituality is a continual journey with no definitive end point.

Legal Requirements

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 states: The curriculum for a maintained school or maintained nursery school satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which: (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and (b) prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The SIAMS Schedule (amended September 2021) references spirituality in both the RE and Collective Worship strands but the main focus is part of strand two on Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills. The Church of England Vision for Education has a core desire for 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) which requires educating the whole person.

The OFSTED framework 2021 states that pupil's spiritual development is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faith, feelings, and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning

- willingness to reflect on their experiences

We support pupils in their spiritual development by:

- providing opportunities for spiritual development in collective worship
- providing opportunities for spiritual development in RE
- providing opportunities for spiritual development in the wider curriculum
- capturing opportunities for awe and wonder as they arise
- providing ‘Reflection and prayer spaces’ in classrooms, public spaces, outside, and by using the church building,
- offering pupils opportunities to develop their own spiritual leadership, through leading collective worship and other opportunities

As a staff team:

- We have a staff understanding of spiritual development.
- We have a culture within our school that recognises the importance of spirituality to individuals, both children and staff.
- We revisit spirituality as an area for consideration in our staff meetings and offer training.
- Our governors monitor the impact of our spirituality focus. They do this through regular governor meetings, the vice chair or governors leading collective worship and enhancing those spiritual opportunities, a governor agenda item.
- We have staff guidance accessible to continue to support staff in this aspect of our curriculum. <https://www.elydiocese.org/growing-in-faith/prayer-and-spirituality/>
- We ensure new staff are aware of our school policy on spiritual development.
- We use models to support our own thinking in spirituality, such as the the relational Hearts ‘ Beyond,Me,Our World,Others’ approach.

BEYOND

The relationship, connection and thoughts you have with the idea of a divine being.



OUR WORLD

The relationship and connection you have with the world we live in.



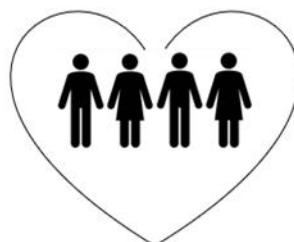
ME

The relationship and connection you have with yourself, your thoughts, your feelings.



OTHERS

The relationship and connection you have with others.



- We have a variety of spiritual spaces both inside and outside the school building.
- We recognise that children will have different ‘Spiritual Temperaments’ or ‘Sacred Pathways.’ This will influence our planning as we look to nurture spirituality across the curriculum, not just in RE and Collective Worship.
- We actively use the language we have agreed on with staff to nurture an awareness of spirituality and its importance to well-being and development with the children.
- We aim to help each pupil to develop a spiritual understanding in terms of their own cultural context.
- We aim to share with parents, whenever possible, the outcomes of our focus on spiritual development through newsletters, social media, displays and our website.
- We discuss spirituality with our church and others who can further support this thread.

Our awareness and understanding of spiritual development will enrich what we offer to the children and to all in our school community.

Other related policies:

Collective Worship

RE Policy

Equalities Policy

SRE Policy