

Orchards Church of England Academy

Spirituality Policy

Policy date: January 2026

Next review: January 2027

Our vision at Orchards

Jesus told his followers that, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” Matthew 7:24

Orchards C of E Academy are building from the ground up: ensuring we get the children’s education right from the very start, in our nursery. Our strong emphasis on the teaching of early reading, writing and maths will lay the solid foundations for every child. The building blocks of our knowledge rich, carefully sequenced curriculum, coupled with strong evidence based pedagogy and principles are reinforced by our solid Christian culture and ethos which permeates through everything we do.

At Orchards, we enact this vision by holding up the values of:

- Respect
- Ambition
- Perseverance
- Responsibility

Respect- Our school is a place of support, security and safety for all of our children and families. We value and develop our relationships and our role within the community.

Ambition- We aim for success for all with our aspirational and knowledge rich curriculum, matching the needs of our learners.

Perseverance- We support each other to take responsibility and become courageous advocates for change.

Responsibility- We encourage each other to take responsibility of our learning and of our actions. Our dedicated Thrive team are a key part in developing this value.

Policy Aims

At Orchards, we see Spirituality as an ongoing, reflective journey. It is something that teaches our children about questioning, understanding and relationships. Christian values are firmly rooted in our approaches. We believe that it is very important to provide all children with a range of opportunities to help them develop spiritually. We believe that spiritual development may be explored within Religious Education, Collective Worship and through many different curriculum areas.

The following are ways in which we develop spirituality:

- Our school is an emotionally safe place where pupils can ask questions, voice their opinions, express their feelings and emotions
- We create time to learn about, discuss and reflect on key questions of meaning, such as the origins of the universe, life after death, good and evil, beliefs about God and values

- such as justice, honesty and truth. This can happen in any part of the curriculum
- We support pupils to develop relationships based on the Christian values of love, forgiveness and service to others
- We encourage pupils to reflect on the significance of what they have learned, ensuring that all pupils have full access to spiritual development whatever their ability
- We provide opportunities to explore making responsible choices and being aware of consequences and implications during PSHE lessons
- We provide opportunities for reflection and prayer
- We have links with local churches, to provide opportunities to explore the Christian faith and spirituality
- We recognise spirituality across all faiths and for those without a recognised faith. We recognise that you can be spiritual without being overtly religious.

Collective Worship is a key part of daily school life and enables us to establish, explore and reinforce our Christian distinctiveness and explore spirituality.

Collective Worship at Orchards C of E Academy:

- Provides an opportunity for children to reflect upon God
- Helps children discover their place in the world
- Explores and reflects on what the Bible teaches us
- Provides children with an opportunity to celebrate Christian festivals and share the central teachings of the Christian faith
- Celebrates Christian festivals together and alongside our partner Church
- A weekly Picture News helps children discuss and explore a topical question linked to a story from world news
- Celebrates gifts, talents and achievements
- Enables pupils to make an effective use of silence for reflection, contemplation and prayer
- Provides opportunities for children to take part in and/or lead collective worship
- Gives memorable and enjoyable collective experiences
- Provides an opportunity for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Contribution of Collective Worship to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of Pupils

One of the key aims of collective worship is to offer pupils opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual development is promoted by:

- A celebration of achievements
- Opportunities for individual and guided reflection
- The consideration of a variety of beliefs, values and feelings
- Appreciation of aspects of life which have special meaning and which contribute to a sense of awe and wonder

Moral development is promoted by:

- Consideration of moral codes found in school, in religions and in society
- Encouraging empathy by the consideration of moral issues from different perspectives
- Consideration of relationships

Social development is promoted by:

- Coming together as a school/class
- Bringing visitors into school from the community
- Sharing values

Cultural development is promoted by:

- Use of music, art, drama, stories and artefacts from a range of cultural backgrounds
- Exploring and celebrating aspects of religion and culture
- Reference to the British Values
- Reference to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Collective Worship structure

At Orchards, we have a planned timetable for Collective Worship.

| | Focus |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | Worship led by SLT, based on the core values of the school |
| Tuesday | Worship led by SLT |
| Wednesday | Picture News |
| Thursday | Praise through Songs |
| Friday | Achievement Collective Worship |

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