

St Francis Catholic and Church of England Primary Academy



Our vision is that St Francis, through its Christian ethos, will be dedicated to the community that it serves and will provide:

- New exciting ways of learning to equip people with skills for life
- A nurturing and inspirational environment
- A caring community

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life' – John 14:6

Spiritual Development Policy

Approved by: Mandy Watson **Date:** January 2026

Last reviewed on: January 2026

Next review due by: January 2029

Legal Framework: Links to OFSTED and SIAMS expectations

The OFSTED School Inspection Handbook, November 2019 No. 190017, page 59 & 60, states:

Inspectors will evaluate the effectiveness of the school's provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. This is a broad concept that can be seen across the school's activities but draws together many of the areas covered by the personal development judgement.

Provision for the spiritual development of pupils includes developing their:

- Ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- Knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, 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.

The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule for Schools and Inspectors, April 2018, includes the question:

- How well does the school support all pupils in their spiritual development, enabling all pupils to flourish? (Strand 2)

What is Spirituality?

Spirituality is defined as:

'the quality of being concerned with the human spirit or soul, as opposed to material or physical things.'

The language of spirituality begins from a Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God. Many Christians believe that God became human and therefore always strive to be the best human they can possibly be. As educators, and in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010, we want to help every child to be the best that they can be and have a duty to support the children to achieve this; part of this responsibility is to help children develop spiritually. At St Francis all aspects of school life reflect a Christian ethos and all policies are based on Christian principles.

We believe that with God's love, help and guidance, our pupils will develop curiosity, discover new interests and grow in their love of learning, enabling them to excel academically, socially and spiritually.

'Spirituality is about our relationships with ourselves, our family, friends, those around us, to God and to all of creation.' Professor Ursula King

We aim for the highest standards and our vision for each child is for them to, through its Christian ethos, be dedicated to the community that it serves - *Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life – John 14:6*. This vision underpins every aspect of life at St Francis, including spiritual development, to enable every child to achieve their 'God given potential'.

How do we develop the spirituality of our children at St Francis?

The spiritual growth of pupils is not only dependent on learning in RE, opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners are developed in every aspect of our school life.

We support the whole school community to share this responsibility and to develop the shared language of spirituality. Opportunities are available for all to develop spiritually in our supportive and nurturing school inspired by our vision and lived out through our Christian values.

At St Francis Catholic and C of E Primary Academy, we believe in the importance of providing all children with a range of opportunities to help them develop spiritually. We believe that spiritual development may not be synonymous with Religious Education and Collective Worship and can be explored through many different curriculum areas.

As a school we focus on the idea of four concepts of spirituality: self, others, world and beauty, and beyond. These are represented by the mirror, door, window and candle. We plan and provide opportunities for 'mirror moments', 'door moments', 'window moments' and 'candle moments':

- We provide and plan for a wide range of opportunities for children to develop spiritually in all areas of the curriculum.
- We provide and plan for a wide range of opportunities for children to develop spiritually through Worship including whole school, key stage and class worships.
- We also promote spiritual development opportunities through our wider curriculum, for example: during our themed weeks such as 'Spirited Arts'; 'Say no to Bullying Week' and through other extra-curricular activities such as singing, gardening, dance and art.
- We provide opportunities for quiet reflection in school and in the outdoor environment.
- We provide opportunities for prayer, including silence and stillness.

What do we aim to achieve for the children?

- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of self - the inner person and the way that this shapes an individual's perception of themselves as a unique human being. The children reflect on the relationship they have with their sense of being a unique person.

- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of others – a growing empathy, concern & compassion for how to treat others. The children reflect on how their values & principles affect their relationships with others.
- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of a physical and creative world – a growing relationship with beauty through the ability to respond emotionally to experiences of the wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity. The children explore their understanding beauty and the affect this has on their perception of and relationship with the world.
- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of the beyond – a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experiences beyond the everyday. The children search for meaning in their very existence and their place in the greater scheme of things.
- The children develop an understanding of the beliefs and values of Christianity and other world religions. The children are respectful of the beliefs and values of others.
- The children develop an understanding of the ethos of a Church school and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith as a way of understanding our meaning and purpose in life.
- The children develop the ability to question.
- The children develop their ability to express their thoughts, ideas, feelings and their beliefs.

Spirituality is a process which starts with the encounter of the 'moment'. This leads to reflection, and then the transformation where we give children opportunities to respond to all of this; to do something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to 'live life in all its fullness' by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- **Collective Worship Policy**
- **Spirituality Overview**
- **RE Policy**