



Church of the Ascension C.E Primary School

Spirituality Policy

Learn with Love, Flourish in Faith

Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:14).

As an inclusive Christian school, Church of the Ascension C.E Primary School aims to create a loving, caring and respectful community, where individuals can flourish spiritually, socially and academically as children of God in a rich learning environment. Our vision is to inspire lifelong learning, whilst encouraging resilience, independence, aspiration and an appreciation of God's wonderful world.

At Church of the Ascension, we believe that spirituality is;

Making connections between myself, others, beauty, and beyond. Developing a sense of belonging to something bigger.

These four elements: self; others; transcendence and beauty, form the basis of our work with children in developing a strong sense of spirituality. We also believe that it is 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. We aim to be a community where everyone works together in an atmosphere which celebrates mutual respect and inclusiveness.

The four elements of spirituality 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

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
- Literature and languages

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

Aims

Spiritually-developed children love and accept themselves and enjoy good connections with each other.

- They take an interest and delight in the world around them.
- They are open to what lies beyond (this may result 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.
- They have a strongly developed sense of awe and wonder.
- They have developed a sense of curiosity and mystery.

To develop a strong sense of spirituality in all of our children, we offer:

- Regular time in the day for quiet and reflection.
- Many opportunities for creativity and using the imagination
- Valued play opportunities for all children
- Regular opportunities to sing together.
- Regular time for prayer, both collectively and individually.
- Frequent opportunities for children to reflect, explore, express and share their feelings.
- Affirmation of the importance of relationships: how we talk to and relate with each other is fundamental.
- Opportunities to express awe and wonder of the world, appreciate beauty in all its forms, and appreciate the connections and unity in the world.
- Encouragement to admit mistakes and to say sorry. Recognising and owning up to faults is an important part of forgiveness.
- Encouragement for children to show kindness, care and compassion, and to express these in practical ways. (eg: how we treat each other every day; charitable works; looking after our environment)
- Exploration of the 'Big Questions' across the curriculum.
- Regular reading with opportunities to discuss and reflect.
- Opportunities to find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges and encourage children to be willing to take risks and to reflect on experiences of challenge, as well as success
- Encouragement to children to develop a set of values which in turn lead to positive choices and informed decisions

- Support to our children to grow in understanding of personal identity and recognise the value and worth of ourselves and others

Structures to support and develop spirituality

At Church of the Ascension, opportunities for spiritual development are both planned for and exploited spontaneously and children are encouraged to reflect upon their spiritual development using the 'Head, Heart and Hands':

Head: I found out about ...

Heart: It made me think It made me feel

Hands: So I decided to

Implementation:

- Our floorbooks are used regularly as a focal point for reflection
- We have a planned programme for Collective Worship across the school, also incorporating 'Head, Heart, Hands'. This maps out themes across the year, based on our core Christian values and vision.
- There is a daily act of collective worship taking different forms, and involving children.
- The environment around the school celebrates and encourages reflection and spirituality.
- Our RE curriculum is inspiring, motivating and challenging.
- Visits and visitors support all our work.
- Worship Leaders meet regularly to develop our worship and our environment.
- Our Peace Garden, developed and maintained by the Worship Leaders and volunteers, should be a quieter space away from the playgrounds to be used throughout the school day for reflection
- Communal and classroom reflection areas encourage open prayer or reflection for those who wish to.
- A strong PSHE curriculum encourages opportunities for reflection and self-expression.
- Regular, purposeful engagement with the church enables children to be actively involved as member of the community.
- Through the '5 Ways to Wellbeing', Wellbeing Ambassadors support peers to make meaningful connections and take notice.

Review and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed every three years by all teaching staff and quality assured by the Headteacher and SLT.

Review date: Spring 2027