



Holy Trinity CE (VA) Primary School

'Aim high, let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

The vision for the school is one where everyone is seen as so valuable in God's eyes that everyone must be supported and encouraged to be the very best they can be. We are a fully inclusive school where no one will or can be left behind.

Spirituality Policy 2023 - 2025

Agreed in September 2023

Review in September 2025

Introduction

Our status as a Church of England school is fundamental to our ethos and purpose. We expect all our staff to support our Christian ethos and aims.

At Holy Trinity School we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be fun. We provide all-encompassing opportunities to allow pupils to flourish and achieve, to fulfil the Church of England vision for education of living 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

Our vision for the school is:

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Matthew 5:16

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Background to the biblical quote and vision for the school:

In the same way, that light should not be hidden but should light up the room, a city on a hill cannot be hidden, we should let our light shine. There is no reason that anyone should not be able to tell that you are a Christian. Jesus says that what should be seen are the good deeds that we perform and the knowledge that we are doing things for the right reasons. In living our lives through the teachings of Jesus and the Bible, God intends for the world to be able to see him by his reflection in his people.

Our status as a Church of England school is fundamental to our vision and purpose. Our community is built upon our Christian vision and values, and we expect all our staff to support these. These values support the effective working of our school, and relationships within it.

Our core values are:

honesty, trust, respect and responsibility.

What is Spirituality?

There are numerous definitions of spirituality. These definitions meet with our understanding and focus on the core of what we agree spirituality is:

'Spirituality is delighting in all things, being absorbed into the present moment, not too attached to self, and eager to explore boundaries of 'beyond' and 'other', searching for meaning, discovering purpose, open to more.' Rebecca Nye

Terence Copley describes it as... 'something more to life than meets the eye, something more than material, something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to.'

Our definition of spirituality is:

'Thinking and wondering about myself and others, thinking about nature, the world, and God. Responding and thinking about our values and ideas. Developing awareness beyond what I can see.'

Why is this significant?

We want our pupils to be able to appreciate the world we live in. To be curious and question, to wonder and to think. For mental health and well-being, providing calm spaces that are quiet and peaceful. Time to enjoy the wonders of nature, the simple and amazing world.

Intent

Our focus is on encouraging our children to understand that everyone is seen as so valuable in God's eyes that everyone must be supported and encouraged to be the very best they can be. We celebrate our identity as a Church of England school through our vision and values, ensuring the promotion of spirituality allows pupils time to consider the world around them, their school community and families, and how they fit into this. At Holy Trinity School we are deliberate about providing our pupils with the opportunity to think and reflect on their ideas, their lives and their relationships with others, and with God.

Opportunities for spiritual development:

- Time provided during learning time to think and reflect;
- Time every day before lunch and before the end of school to reflect and then pray;
- Use our outdoor spaces and encourage a love of nature;
- Use questions and develop understanding;
- Be respectful of others and learn to listen well;
- Encourage curiosity and wonder;
- Providing a safe space to explore feelings and experiences;
- Weekly sessions in RWV focussing on different faiths and beliefs;
- Daily collective worship with teachings from the Bible, time to think about their values and living within the community;
- Ask and consider big questions including in Religion and World Views (RWV);
- Provide time for quiet and calm;
- Value achievement holistically;
- Encourage positive well-being and good mental health;
- Provide prayer and spirituality focus days;
- Use strategies to scaffold including 'windows, mirrors and doors', and materials to promote spirituality for each year group (Imaginor).

Spiritual learners:

- Appreciate what is positive;
- Be calm and happy;
- Learn and reflect;
- See the joy in the world;
- Appreciate the value of others;
- Communicate with empathy;
- Ask questions and be curious to learn;
- Have time to be with God;
- Use their senses more fully;
- Appreciate art and music

Monitoring and evaluation

Spiritual development and capacity cannot be measured and is part our personal journey. As a school we will monitor and evaluate the quality and value of the opportunities for spiritual development we offer across the school to ensure it continues to meet with our vision and values. This quality assurance will include:

- Ensuring we have a shared understanding of spirituality;
- Pupil voice;
- Observation of opportunities offered;
- Sharing outcomes of class work and activities'
- Pupil work;
- Staff professional development;
- Discussion at professional learning meetings and FGB;

Appendix I –Strategy for Spiritual Development at Holy Trinity

Mirrors

Spirituality is about reflection. this encourages us to spend time reflecting on themselves; their thoughts, beliefs, values and feelings. Space to ask questions about themselves. This includes the 'wows ' and 'Ows'.

'Wows' – things that are amazing – awe and wonder;

'Ows' – things that bring us up short, surprise or shock;

'Hows' – I wonder..



Windows

Spirituality is about Experience. this encourages us to imagine looking out of a window at the world around us. Think about its beauty and any questions or curiosities you have. Giving space to ask questions about the world around us.



Doors

The image of the door is a support to think about others and ourselves. Responding and further developing thoughts and values. Putting into action what they understand and believe.



Candles

An awareness of the things we cannot see in life, but we can feel. For many in community this is expressed as an awareness of God and personal faith. It is also about developing imagination.



Appendix 2 – examples of activities

Seeing	Looking at nature; candles; blowing and watching bubbles; looking at calming pictures; watching trees and leaves in the wind;
Hearing	Listening to calming music; bird song; listening to what is around them; responding to poems and stories; responding to others views
Smelling	New grass; oil burner scents
Touching	Painting pebbles; mindful colouring; touching leaves; collecting flowers;
Writing/drawing	Writing 'I wonder' bubbles, drawing nature pictures;
Talking	Asking big questions about God; being curious to ask and answer questions of meaning and purpose
Thinking/reflecting	Reflection time in lessons and collective worship; deep breathing
Using nature/the environment	Walking around the grounds; different seasons;