



**WOODBOROUGH WOODS**  
C of E Foundation School

# **Spirituality Policy**

## **July 2025**

## **Our Definition of Spirituality**

At the heart of our school's Christian vision—"We grow together, following Jesus' example to 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'" (Matthew 22:37-39)—spirituality is understood as the journey of growing in love: love for God, love for others, and love for oneself. It is the sense of connection, purpose, and wonder that shapes who we are and how we live in community.

Spirituality underpins all aspects of school life. Through daily acts of kindness, reflection, and shared values, we nurture a learning community where every individual is valued, supported, and encouraged to flourish. As we grow together, we inspire one another to live out Jesus' example in word and action.

## **What is Spirituality?**

Spirituality is about how we experience life beyond the material. In our school, we define spirituality as the deep human capacity for:

- **Awe and wonder** - delighting in the beauty and mystery of the world
- **Reflection** - thinking deeply about life's meaning and our place in the world
- **Relationships** - building loving, compassionate, and respectful connections with others
- **Self-awareness** - understanding ourselves as unique and valued individuals
- **Faith and belief** - exploring Christian and other worldviews and asking big questions about God, purpose, and values

Our spirituality is grounded in the Christian belief that every person is made in the image of God, with inherent worth and the ability to grow in love, wisdom, and compassion.

## **Aims**

Our Spirituality Policy aims to:

- Foster an environment where all children and adults feel safe to explore and express spiritual ideas
- Encourage reflection on faith, relationships, and personal growth
- Ensure that spirituality is woven through our curriculum, worship, and ethos
- Promote values rooted in Christian teaching such as love, hope, forgiveness, humility, and justice
- Support children to become compassionate and thoughtful citizens in a diverse world

## **How Spirituality is Nurtured in Our School**

Spirituality is not a separate subject, but an essential part of our whole school life. It is nurtured through:

### **a. Collective Worship**

- Daily collective worship gives space for spiritual reflection, prayer, and Christian teaching

- Worship is inclusive, invitational, and inspirational, allowing all children to engage meaningfully

#### **b. Curriculum**

- Spiritual development is explicitly supported in RE and PSHE
- Opportunities are embedded in subjects such as English (through literature), science (exploring wonder), art and music (creative expression), and history/geography (understanding humanity and creation)

#### **c. Reflection and Prayer Spaces**

- Every classroom includes a reflective area or prayer space
- Pupils are encouraged to use these spaces to be still, to wonder, to pray, or to think about their feelings and relationships

#### **d. School Environment and Community**

- Displays celebrate spiritual growth and promote Christian values
- Outdoor areas are used to explore awe, beauty, and reflection
- The wider community is engaged through services, charitable activities, and community links

### **Monitoring and Evaluation of Spirituality**

We understand that spirituality cannot be measured, but we can observe and reflect on how well we are nurturing it:

#### **a. Observing Pupils' Development**

- Thoughtful questioning and discussion
- Demonstration of empathy, kindness, and reflection
- Engagement in worship and curiosity in RE

#### **b. Pupil Voice**

- Opportunities for children to express what spirituality means to them through discussion, journals, artwork, or reflective writing
- Regular feedback on collective worship and the spiritual life of the school

#### **c. Staff and Community Involvement**

- Staff reflections on their role in modelling spiritual values
- Inclusion of spiritual development in curriculum planning and evaluation
- Governors and leaders monitor the spiritual ethos through school visits, discussions with pupils and staff, and evaluation of worship and RE provision.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to share in the spiritual life of the school, including participation in services and celebrations.

## The Impact on Pupils and Community

*'If you are unsure of something and don't know it's the right thing, you can take it upon yourself and think about the school values and then think... I am going to be those things.'* - OFSTED report April 2024

- Children can articulate spiritual experiences and values in age-appropriate ways.
- Pupil voice tells us that they enjoy and are impacted by worship and RE.
- Children show growing empathy, a sense of justice, and personal responsibility.
- There is a calm, respectful, and reflective atmosphere across school.
- Staff also speak of personal growth and shared values that influence their relationships and practice.

## Role of Adults in Modelling Spirituality

All adults in the school community are expected to:

- Model Christian values in their relationships and interactions
- Facilitate thoughtful discussion and respect for others' beliefs and feelings
- Be attentive to children's emotional and spiritual well-being
- Celebrate moments of joy, reflection, and discovery

## Inclusion and Respect for All

- While our vision is grounded in Christian teaching, we respect and honour the spiritual journeys of all in our school community, including those of different faiths and none. We provide a safe, open environment for all pupils to explore big questions and spiritual experiences in a respectful and inclusive way. Our school vision is understood and embraced across our diverse community. The tree imagery in our vision connects with Sikh teaching. Sikh virtues such as compassion (Daya), courage (Himmat), and doing what is right (Dharam) are viewed as "roots" that ground a person. These roots grow into outward actions like kindness and service – mirroring our own vision. This community insight strengthens our theological understanding of nurturing deep-rooted character in every child.

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Our school is a place where spirituality is lived out through love, kindness, and shared values. Following Jesus' example, we grow together as a community that enables all to reflect, belong, and flourish.

*"Love your neighbour as you love yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39)*