

ST STEPHEN'S C of E First School



Spirituality Policy

OUR VISION:

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE CHRISTIAN ETHOS - EVERY CHILD IS SPECIAL IN THE EYES OF GOD AND WE TEACH THAT ALL PEOPLE SHOULD LOVE, CARE FOR AND RESPECT ONE ANOTHER AND OUR PLANET.

*It is our ambition that all our pupils use our 6 Christian values **Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, Integrity, Community and Respect**, to achieve our vision and mission.*

'A New Commandment I give you, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34

It is from this Commandment and the teachings of Jesus that we teach our children the six Christian values.



Recommended by:	Principal
Recommendation Date:	06.05.25
Ratified by:	LAGB
Signed:	
Position on the Board:	Chair of LAGB
Ratification date	6 th May 2025
Amendments approved:	
Next Review:	September 2028
Policy Tier	School

Policy Statement

At St. Stephen's CofE First School, spirituality is viewed as an integral and important part of school life. This provides an opportunity for everyone to develop a sense of self, community and unity as a whole school. Spirituality is part of the school's contribution to promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is a good time to ask big questions and to stop and reflect. Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our vision statement and its Christian ethos.

'That every child is special in the eyes of God, and we believe that all people should love, care for and respect one another and our planet.'

Children are given the opportunity for reflection and prayer. There are opportunities for stillness and a chance to think. Everyone is special and unique in our school. We have a strong belief in tradition, community and the multicultural makeup of our school.

The worship of the school is based on Christian values which are linked to Christian theology.

We identify the values of:

Love: God loved the world so much. (John 3.16) As we are loved by God, we are called to respond in how we love God and each other (1.Cor 13.40-5)

Forgiveness: We seek to forgive others as we are forgiven by God. (Matthew

6.12)

Values Education

We blend Christian teaching and Values Education in order to create opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, personally, socially, mentally and intelligently so that their self- esteem and well-being is sound and supported by ever growing emotional intelligence; leading to an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as young citizens. The systematic introduction of a common values vocabulary allows children to access moral and ethical thought.

Spirituality Statement:

'At St Stephen's CofE First School we love, share and reflect to make connections with God.

And so we...

...are still and reflect,

...think, question and explore,

...make connections with each other,

...make links with the world and how it fits together.

Aims of Spirituality:

- To support each child's spiritual journey providing context and security to ask big questions
- To foster a sense of curiosity
- To develop respect and empathy for other people and their beliefs
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder, purpose and direction in life

To appreciate and value God's creations

We support pupils in their spiritual development by:

-Providing opportunities for spiritual development as outlined in the nine areas

of Sacred Pathways. Kathryn Wright.

1. **Naturalists: Loving God outdoors.**
2. **Sensates: Loving God with the senses**
3. **Traditionalists: Loving God through ritual and symbol.**
4. **Ascetics: Loving God in solitude and simplicity**
5. **Activists: Loving God through confrontation**
6. **Caregivers: Loving God by loving others**
7. **Enthusiasts: Loving God with mystery and celebration**
8. **Intellectuals: Loving God with the mind.**
9. **Contemplatives: Loving God through adoration.**

Outlined below are examples of how spiritual development is nurtured and promoted in school.

In Worship

- Opportunities for reflection and response
- Questions of God
- Commitment and belonging
- Sharing and celebrating our beliefs
- Exploring our Christian values and how they inform our actions

In RE

- Questions of meaning and purpose
- Big questions of God
- Use of music, art and drama to express beliefs
- Sharing and celebrating our beliefs and how to walk in difference
- Using Philosophy 4 Children to explore Big Questions without judgement or prejudice
- To practice articulating and thinking through big questions
- To listen, think and respond to other suggestions

In the Creative Arts

- Beauty and artistic expression
- Effects on emotional responses

- Personal response and preferences
- Art as a way of expressing mood

In Computing

- The wonder of instant communication and information
- The rapid growth of knowledge
- The accessibility

In Scientific exploration

- Awe and wonder at the marvels of science
- Life cycles and how we are connected
- The universe
- Discovery and exploration
- Scientific achievements and its impact.

The Humanities:

- Wonder of God's creation
- Care for God's creations
- Land formation and use of this
- Connections with people across the world
- War and peace
- Being a part of the history of the world
- Learning from others' beliefs and behaviours

PSHE

- Wonder of God's creation
- How we interact and care for one another
- Empathy and care
- Understanding how we connect to others
- Commitment and belonging to a family or group
- Showing care and respect or one another

In English

- Discovering and developing language to express yourself
- Appreciation of the beauty of word
- Emotional responses
- The value of great works of art
- Role models and relationships
- Escaping into imaginary worlds.

Evaluating the impact of Spirituality

Spirituality will be assessed as part of the school's curriculum entitlement as a church school. Children will reflect with increasing thought and depth. Pupils will develop their views and insights gained with increasing degrees of perception.

Monitoring and Review:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by RE/ and Collective Worship Lead / Leaders and Governors
- A spirituality review
- Collective Worship development plans.
- KIT meetings from the Diocese
- SIAMS inspection.

Reviewed: Sarah Barrett

April 2025