



Bishop Martin CE Primary School

Spirituality Policy

Learning Together, in God's Love

At Bishop Martin, we INSPIRE and empower all members of our school community, providing the knowledge to enable everyone to thrive and flourish. Guided by our Christian Values, we are all determined to serve and lead the diverse world we live in treating everyone with compassion, dignity and respect. Hope and aspiration support all to grow and believe that
“...with God all things are possible.”
Matthew 19:26

Our Christian Values

<i>Christian Values Year 1</i>	<i>Thankfulness</i>	<i>Trust</i>	<i>Perseverance</i>	<i>Justice</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Truthfulness</i>
<i>Christian Values Year 2</i>	<i>Generosity</i>	<i>Compassion</i>	<i>Courage</i>	<i>Forgiveness</i>	<i>Friendship</i>	<i>Respect</i>

Contents	Page
<i>What is spirituality</i>	3
<i>Aims</i>	3
<i>Organisation of spirituality at Bishop Martin</i>	5
<i>Curriculum examples of spirituality</i>	5
<i>Legal Framework</i>	6
<i>Recording, monitoring and evaluating</i>	7

At Bishop Martin we aim to nurture everyone's spirituality and we see this as fundamental to ensuring all can 'thrive and flourish'.

Learning Together, in God's Love
"...with God all things are possible."
Matthew 19:26

Our vision influences the ethos of our school and the policies and practices within it. We believe that spirituality is a core thread that runs through our school and we attach great importance to it for both children's development and for the growth and well-being of all within our school community.

What is spirituality?

To support us when talking about spirituality we have agreed an LDST definition of spirituality.

Spirituality is a deep connection to ourselves, others and the wider world, brought about by a sense of belonging and appreciation of the beauty and wonder of God's creation. It is a broader sense of personal and moral development; allowing an individual to explore the person they want to become.

Spirituality becomes the recognition that there is something much greater than oneself, which invites a response, bringing insight, reflection and meaning. It is our ability to be present and 'in the moment' allowing us to delight in the awe and wonder of all that we encounter and give us a sense of meaning and purpose in life.

Spirituality at Bishop Martin

Spiritual development differs from person to person and is a very personal experience. For this reason, it is difficult to put into words. Spirituality is not the same as having a religion or faith; a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith. For Christians in church, spirituality is about developing a deeper understanding of and connection with God. Through this we are able to respond to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.





Through spiritual development, we aim to support pupils and adult to...

- *be guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand for them*
- *develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value*

- *develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them*
- *develop an awareness of, and respect for, other people's beliefs and faiths, and the ability to articulate their own*
- *develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others)*
- *develop strategies to build good mental health*
- *foster self-awareness and the ability to make informed decisions*
- *develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life*
- *begin to understand and make sense of their own feelings and emotions around certain encounters and events that occur in their life*
- *develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth*
- *understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others*
- *develop a love of curiosity, creativity and imagination*
- *develop the ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion and beauty*
- *develop a capacity to value the natural world, a sense of awe and wonder and a commitments to care for creation.*

Our approach to Spirituality

To help the children understand their developing spirituality we use clear language and symbols supported by the work Liz Mills around 'Windows, Mirrors and Doors'. We have also added our own additional symbol of a candle to signify beauty and awe and wonder at the world around us. These symbols and explanations are used around school, within worship and lessons across the curriculum.

<p>Our spirituality is our individual sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves; be it our God, our universe, or our values. Spirituality gives us a sense of meaning and purpose in life.</p>	
<p>Mirror/Self</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of our uniqueness • Ability to reflect • Finding values by which to live • Developing of imagination and creativity 	<p>Others/Window</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empathy and understanding • Respect and tolerance • To love and be loved (loving your neighbour) • Making a difference • Courageous advocacy 
<p>Beyond/Door</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of something greater than ourselves • Experiencing God (including prayer) • Learning how to be comfortable with silence and reflection • Ability to think and discuss the 'big questions' (life, death suffering, nature of god) 	<p>Beauty/Candle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a sense of awe and wonder • Enjoying the miracles of everyday life • Appreciating beauty in art, music, nature etc • Taking time for what really matters 

These symbols and explanations are then used to plan out spirituality spotlights across all curriculum areas.

We view spiritual growth as becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. These opportunities happen throughout each and every day as children deal with delight, disappointment and the chance to be present with themselves. For this reason, every member of the school community is familiar with the school's shared language of spirituality and will respond to pupils appropriately.

Throughout the daily life of the school, including lunch times and playtimes, pupils know that their references to spirituality will be heard and taken seriously. They will be encouraged to reflect on these experiences in the moment and be comfortable about talking about spirituality

Legal Framework

Our approach to spirituality takes into account both the definition from Ofsted and the legal framework from The Education Act 2002 and the SIAMS schedule.

Ofsted define pupil's spiritual development as shown by their:

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values.
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them including the intangible.
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning.
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Our Legal Duty;

1. Section 78 of the Education Act 2002. This states the curriculum for a maintained school or nursery satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly based curriculum which; (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils at the school and of society, and (b) prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
2. The SIAMS Schedule (amended September 2023). This references spirituality in both the RE curriculum and Collective Worship strands. The Church of England Vision for Education has a core desire for 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) which requires educating the whole person.

Recording, monitoring and evaluation

The Christian Distinctiveness Committee will review the policy at least every three years in partnership with Senior/ Middle Leaders and consider any views expressed by parents, children and staff in order to make any changes or recommendations. Recommendations are fed back to the full governing body and are then actioned as appropriate.

Governors ensure that this policy is fully implemented and that practice is consistent with the school's Christian vision, in line with the school's monitoring policy and schedule for governors.

Other related policies you may wish to look at

Collective Worship

RE Policy

Behaviour Policy

The BM Way