

St Laurence Church Infant School

Spirituality Policy



Approved by: Whole Governing Board
Last revised on: March 2026
Next review due by: March 2027



Vision and Context

At St Laurence Church Infant School, our approach to spirituality flows directly from our Christian vision, to "Do all things with love." We recognise that everyone and everything is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God. This belief underpins how we view children, adults and the wider world, and shapes a school culture rooted in dignity, respect and love.

We understand spirituality as a way of seeing, connecting with and giving meaning to life beyond the day-to-day. It enables children to explore what it means to live life in all its fullness and supports them to flourish as whole individuals: emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Spirituality at St Laurence Church Infant School is inclusive and invitational. While it is grounded in a Christian worldview, it is not dependent on religious affiliation, enabling all members of our community to engage meaningfully, regardless of faith or belief.

The Importance of Spiritual Development

We believe that spiritual development is a fundamental aspect of personal growth and wellbeing. It supports children to:

- Develop self-awareness and emotional literacy
- Experience awe, wonder and curiosity
- Ask meaningful questions about life and the world
- Build empathy, compassion and respect for others

Spiritual development contributes directly to children's flourishing, helping them to grow into happy, confident and reflective individuals who are able to engage positively with the world around them.

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Our Understanding of Spirituality

Spirituality is experienced rather than taught. It often arises in moments of stillness, creativity, challenge, joy, sadness, connection or deep thinking.

We understand spiritual development as a process of transformation, involving three interconnected stages:

- **Encounter** - noticing or experiencing something that inspires wonder, questioning or emotional response
- **Reflection** - thinking deeply about the experience and its meaning
- **Transformation** - responding through changed understanding, attitude or action

This understanding reflects the Church of England's emphasis on spirituality as lived and embodied rather than abstract or purely academic.

The tools we use to explore spirituality

To support spiritual development in a structured and age-appropriate way, St Laurence Church Infant School uses the **Windows, Mirrors and Doors** framework.

Windows - Encounter



"Stop and look out into the world"

Children are given opportunities to look outwards and become aware of the world in new ways. This includes:

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- Exploring the beauty, diversity and mystery of creation
- Encountering stories, people and events that inspire or challenge
- Noticing moments of joy, sadness, injustice or wonder

These experiences help children to recognise that the world is bigger than themselves and worthy of care and attention.

Mirrors - Reflection



"Think and reflect upon ourselves"

Children are encouraged to look inward and reflect on their own thoughts, feelings and experiences. This includes:

- Considering life's big questions
- Exploring personal values and beliefs
- Listening to and learning from the perspectives of others

Reflection supports children in developing self-understanding and respect for difference.

Doors - Transformation



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"Go out and take action."

Children are supported to respond thoughtfully and positively to what they have encountered and reflected upon. This includes:

- Creative expression through art, music, writing or play
- Acts of kindness, compassion and service
- Making choices inspired by Christian values

Children are encouraged to follow Jesus' teaching in the parable of the Good Samaritan to **"go and do likewise"**, linking belief to action.

Spirituality in Practice

Spiritual development is woven throughout the daily life of St Laurence Church Infant School Church Infant School and is supported through:

Collective Worship

Collective worship provides regular opportunities for children to:

- Engage with Christian stories, values and teachings
- Experience stillness, reflection and prayer
- Reflect on how faith is lived out in action

Worship is invitational and inclusive, enabling all children to participate at a level appropriate to their understanding and belief.

Curriculum

Our broad, balanced and engaging curriculum intentionally creates opportunities for spiritual moments across all subjects. These include:

- Awe and wonder in the natural world
- Reflection through literature, music and the arts
- Ethical discussion and empathy through history and PSHE

Spirituality is not confined to RE but is embedded across learning experiences.

Wellbeing Wednesday

Our co-curricular Wellbeing Wednesday project gives a pause in the busy week where our focus is on mental health charity, Mind's five steps to wellbeing. In particular opportunities to connecting to others, to taking notice of our world and to give provoke a spiritual response.

Reading Spine

Each basket of our reading spine contains one or two carefully selected books, chosen to provoke spiritual reflections. These books marked with a golden star have a secret envelope with some windows mirrors and doors questions at the end.

Pause for Thought Moments

Spontaneous and planned opportunities allow children to pause, be still and reflect carefully on:

- The world around them
- Their emotions and responses
- Their role and responsibilities within the community

Adults play a vital role in noticing and shining a light on these moments, helping children to recognise their spiritual significance.

Inclusion, Dignity and Respect

At St Laurence Church Infant School, we recognise that each child and adult's spiritual journey is unique. We value diversity of belief and experience and ensure that spirituality is explored in a way that upholds the dignity of every individual.

Children are encouraged to:

- Express ideas freely and respectfully
- Listen carefully to others
- Develop empathy and understanding

This creates a safe and supportive environment in which all members of the community can flourish.

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As a Rights Respecting School the importance of respecting the right to freedom of thought and religion and the right of children to share their views freely are especially pertinent to spirituality.

As a school using Voice21, we encourage children to articulate their thoughts confidently and actively listen to those of others.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **All staff** nurture spiritual development and model reflective, compassionate behaviour
- **School leaders** ensure spirituality is vision-led and embedded across school life
- **The Collective Worship leader** ensures opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection are planned into every act of worship
- **Governors** monitor and support spirituality as part of the school's Christian character

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure that spiritual development remains a lived and meaningful part of school life and continues to reflect the school's Christian vision and the needs of its community.