

All Saints' Academy

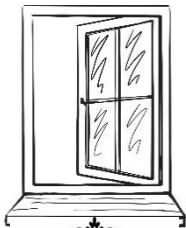


Developing Spirituality

As a church school we are concerned with the development of children's mind, body and soul. We believe that spirituality should influence all areas of education and life, therefore we aim that all areas of the curriculum contribute to pupils' spiritual development. Spiritual development relates to fundamental questions about the meaning and purpose of life which affect everyone, and is not dependent on a religious affiliation.

Spiritual development is not about becoming, more spiritual, it is about realising or becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. This is sometimes a slow and gradual process, at other times there might be significant stages of realisation, which are part of the ongoing 'developing' process. People don't reach a finished state of spiritual development, but participate in the ongoing process of spiritual realisation.

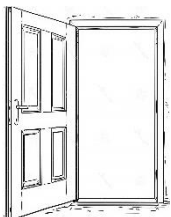
At All Saints' CofE Academy, our vision is **Let your light shine**. Using the Bible verses from Matthew 5: 14-16 we use the analogy of 'light' through the concepts of **windows, mirrors and doors**, to help pupils in their spiritual development.



Windows: giving children opportunities to become aware of and seeing the world in new ways; to wonder about life's 'WOWs' (things that are amazing) and 'OWs' (things that bring us up short and we find difficult). In this, children are learning about life in all its fullness.



Mirrors: Giving opportunities to reflect upon our experiences. To meditate on life's big questions and consider some possible answers. Learning from life by exploring our own insights and perspectives and those of others.



Doors: Giving opportunities to respond, to do something creative in order to express, apply and further develop our thoughts and convictions. Learning to live by putting into action our beliefs and values.

Spirituality

Spirituality is a very personal experience. It differs from person to person, and often spirituality changes within people during their lifetime. Spirituality is not the same as having a religion or faith; a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith.

At All Saints' we have reflected upon different definitions of spirituality:

“Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking questions, inspiration and being aware of something ‘bigger’ outside of ourselves.”

“Our inner self is where we can find resources from within that come from a greater source i.e God. Our soul.”

As Primary school, it is important that we use age-appropriate language to define spirituality, so when talking to our children we will refer to:

- A sense of awe and wonder
- Care for nature and living things
- Wanting to love and to be loved by people

Awe and Wonder

Children are born inquisitive, and it is our duty to nurture this natural curiosity and guide them towards looking at the world and noticing, with awe and wonder, the natural and man-made delights all around us.

We want to encourage them to ask ‘big questions’ about life, religion, nature, science and any other area of fascination.

We teach our children to ask challenging questions and explore the importance of reflecting on the world around us. We take time to sit, listen and explore the skies above. We use all of our senses explore nature on our school site, in the local countryside and when on school trips and residential.

Caring for Nature and Living Things

We provide many opportunities for children to learn about nature and the role they play in protecting our world. As a Church School, this is especially important. We have strong systems of school council, GLOW teams, Forest School sessions and an active Eco Club/Gardening club. These groups enable our children to have a voice and ownership of the world around them.

Through science and topic work, children learn about the world and how they can care for living things. We are developing our interest in our local community around issues of social action, courageous advocacy, and have led campaigns about recycling and plastic usage.

Love

We are a very caring school and have love as one of our school values, we pride ourselves on our ethos of family. Our vision is underpinned by love and the knowledge that we are all loved by God. Through our Christian Values, we teach children to care for friends, family and the community. Indeed, our curriculum enables learning about those we love and who

love us. The All Saints' Curriculum is bespoke to the needs of our community, it provides rich and relevant learning. We hold regular events in school to celebrate the special people in our children's lives.

How is Spirituality Nurtured?

At All Saints' we offer endless opportunities for all children and members of the school community to explore spirituality. As a Church of England school this often reflects our distinctively Christian character.

Children's spiritual development is fostered through all aspects of our provision. It is about the relationships and the values that we consider to be important, as well as the development of knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes. We give children opportunities to:

- Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.
- Begin to develop their own World View or system of beliefs which may or may not include religious beliefs.
- Celebrating the 'WOWs' and supporting each other as we face the 'OWs'.
- Experience a love of learning through rewarding their enthusiasm and by encouraging exploratory play and learning.
- Reflect upon the world around them and show a sense of awe and wonder towards aspects of the natural world or human achievement.
- Reflect on the situations of others through role play, stories.
- Experience a range of stories, music, art, drama and dance
- Reflections Days: Peace & Reconciliation, Christmas and Easter.

What is the Role of the School Community?

In school we give opportunities for reflection, in lessons and collective worship, children develop an understanding of looking back and reflecting on what they have experienced. This may take the form of looking back and taking from the past, from a Bible story, from a picture/icon/view/learning experience. The focus is to help us in our lives today and tomorrow.

All members of the school community have a responsibility for helping to nurture children's spiritual development.

School staff can do this through:

- Establishing and maintaining a partnership between pupils, parents and staff; recognising and respecting the faith background of the children and their families;

- Taking part in, and supporting, collective acts of worship;
- Being good role models in their conduct towards other members of the community;
- Promoting an attitude of respect for other people and for others' views;
- Nurturing consideration for and generosity towards others.
- Drawing on the experiences of pupils, their families and community during religious education lessons and beyond;
- Recognising and being constantly aware of the needs and backgrounds of each individual pupil;
- Being willing to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the faiths of others;
- Having a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education.

Children can do this through:

- Taking an active part in acts of collective worship;
- Leading collective worship as GLOW Team;
- Participating in activities which promote the skills allowing them to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice;
- Conducting themselves towards others considerately, in line with the code of conduct;
- Respecting the views and beliefs of others.

Parents can help through:

- Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education;
- Supporting the school's Christian ethos and acts of community worship such as assemblies and church services;
- Respecting the views and beliefs of others.

At All Saints' we embrace the importance of the Arts and use this as a vehicle to enable deeper thinking. By being spiritual we are exploring beliefs and our experiences; we respect all faiths, feelings and values; we enjoy learning about ourselves, others and our world; we use our imagination and creativity; we reflect.

At All Saints' we harness the power of Music and Art effectively.

Music serves a Spirit-like function through its role in communicating the indescribable. Music cultivates community, as sound creates communication and unity. Cultivation is a constant process that develops, encourages, and nurtures.

Sound creates a spiritual connection between music-maker and music-lover. A song can give a unified voice that revolutionizes and revitalises the spirit of a community.

At All Saints' we have music playing on a daily basis, children experience a range of musical styles and have the opportunity to sing every day. Adults model the importance of expressing themselves through music and a children's choir perform at school and local events.

The imagination and creativity of a child is a precious gift.

At All Saints' we have a holistic approach to education and aim to involve Body, Mind and Spirit. We regularly engage with local artists, galleries and companies to enable our children to express their feelings in a range of different ways and contexts. Staff expertise within the school gives the arts a high profile.

All children feel successful in this space because their uniqueness is celebrated.

We celebrate their work and the school is full of their creations. Our school is a colourful, stimulating and vibrant place in the community.