

YAPTON C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



An Open Door to Learning

SPIRITUALITY POLICY

Approved by the Governing Body Spring Term 2024

To be Reviewed: Autumn Term 2026

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 which helps us shape our ideas, values and beliefs in ourselves and others.

The Aim of this Policy

The aim of this policy is to outline how Yapton Church of England Primary School provides opportunities for children to develop their spirituality.

At Yapton Church of England Primary School, our role is to inspire, create and recognise that spirituality exists in everyone. Our school vision is **'To live life in all its fullness'** (John 10:10) and we want to ensure our children are able to do this whilst being happy and rounded in all respects of life, including spirituality – which cannot be taught or measured.

What is Spirituality?

Spirituality is not possible to teach. It is like the wind – it makes a difference but is uncontrollable for each person. It might change someone's understanding and beliefs but ultimately is an innate sense of awe and wonder. It is about understanding that there is something more than just 'me'.



Promoting spirituality should not be confused with developing faith. Faith is a set of beliefs by which lives are lived and could be a response to a belief in God. Faith is deliberately chosen, whereas spirituality is an aspect of human development – it is not separate but integral to who we are and what makes us whole. Spirituality is for everybody regardless of faith.

Why is Spirituality important?

Christians believe that God became human and therefore always strive to be the best human they can possibly be. As educators and in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010, we want to help every child to be the best that they can be and have a duty to support the children to achieve this; part of this responsibility is to help children develop spiritually. All aspects of school life at Yapton Church of England Primary School reflect a Christian ethos and all policies are based on Christian principles.

What do we aim to achieve for the children?

Our aims for the children, in terms of spirituality, are for the children to become:

- increasingly aware of the concept of self – the inner person and the way that this shapes an individual's perception of themselves as a unique human being. The children reflect on the relationship they have with their sense of being a unique person;
- increasingly aware of the concept of others – a growing empathy, concern & compassion of how to treat others. The children reflect on how their values & principles affect their relationships with others;
- increasingly aware of the concept of a physical and creative world – a growing relationship with beauty through the ability to respond emotionally to experiences of the wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity. The children explore their understanding of beauty and the affect this has on their perception of and relationship with the world;
- increasingly aware of the concept of the beyond – a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experiences beyond the everyday. The children search for meaning in their very existence and their place in the greater scheme of things;

as well as to develop:

- an understanding of the beliefs and values of Christianity and other world religions. The children are respectful of the beliefs and values of others. develop an understanding of the ethos of a Church school and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith as a way of understanding our meaning and purpose in life;
- the ability to question;
- their ability to express their thoughts, ideas, feelings and their beliefs.

How is spirituality promoted within the ethos and the Daily Life of the School?

Opportunities of enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners are developed in every aspect of our school life. Specific areas including Collective Worship, the whole curriculum, including RE and the general ethos of the school within daily life offer opportunities for spiritual growth.

As stated in our curriculum intent statement, we aim to support the children **to have a secure understanding of themselves and their place in our world today**. Our bespoke curriculum provides learning opportunities to explore big questions through a process of five Es:

- **Engage**
- **Enquire**
- **Explore**
- **Evaluate**
- **Express**

Through this process the children are able to express and make sense of their learning in different ways.

Through our practices of Our Teaching for Learning policy, our Marking and Feedback policy and our Behaviour policy as well as our THINK values, children face opportunities and situations throughout



each and every day to deal with delight, disappointment and the chance of being present in 'moment' with themselves.

Time is given to for other big, sometimes overwhelming, concepts such as life, death, identity, conflict and environmental issues to be explored. In these situations, answers aren't necessarily offered.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the beating heart of Yapton Church of England Primary School. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared.

Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present which are often linked to invitations to pray.

Through daily Collective Worship, pupils are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They are offered an understanding of worship by being invited to participate in, or observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible and Anglican liturgy.

Collective Worship is one of the opportunities we use to develop children's understanding of spirituality. To support, this we use the reflective model and structure of 'Head, Hearts, Feet'. Using the symbols of the head, heart and feet, the children are given the opportunity to:

- Think about the theme and the key message
- Consider their feelings and personal reflections
- Plan how to walk forward following the message of the worship and hearing God's word.



Opportunities to reflect on the good things in of life such as beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise with the less-good moments of disappointment or pain. Pupils are given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark seasonal Christian festivals. In this way pupils are offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Spirituality in Religious Education

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school's approach to RE and spirituality.

Learning opportunities in our balanced RE curriculum provide for the needs of all pupils, offering a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful explorations of world religions other than Christianity and worldviews. For further details, please refer to Yapton Church of England Primary School's Religious Education Policy and The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement.

Spirituality within and beyond the Curriculum

Our school has an Open Door to Learning. The children's needs based on their life experiences out of school have informed the design and content of our bespoke curriculum, underneath which sits our curriculum intent statement and through which our school values of Community, Dignity, Wisdom and Hope run.



The wide range of experiences the children can also be exposed to through our extra-curricular clubs as well as other out of school experiences provide opportunities for the development of spirituality.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

Governors with the Curriculum and Pupil Care Committee review the policy in line with the timetabled policy review and agreement timetable. This is done in partnership with Senior 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.

Roles and Responsibilities

Recognising there are opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners in every aspect of our school life, every member of our staff team is committed to support this spiritual growth wherever appropriate.

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher are responsible for supporting and leading spiritual development in our school, including monitoring opportunities for spiritual growth in collective worship, the whole curriculum (including RE) and the general ethos of the school within daily life,

This role also includes:

- Ensuring personal knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in CPD and shared good practice;
- Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary;
- Ensuring all staff are familiar with the shared language of spirituality;
- Acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary;
- Monitoring the opportunities for spiritual growth through regular observations and learning walks in both formal and informal contexts, discussions with colleagues and pupil voice;
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process particularly around Strand 2.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's:

- Collective Worship Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- Equalities Policy