

‘Created to Do Good’: Ephesians 2:10

Rev banks: ‘Spirituality is looking outside yourself.’

Defining spirituality at Ireby?

Humans are naturally curious. Children at Ireby school are naturally curious. We tend to ask questions and want to explore answers. Not everything in life can be explained through science or logic. Who am I? Where did our universe come from? What is my purpose? What is right and wrong? Do I have a soul? How should I live my life? What happens when we die? These questions have engaged human minds throughout the ages. The recent growth of science and technology, as profound is, simply does not provide us with all the answers. In fact, the more we find out, the more questions we have – the greater our need to connect with that which we cannot explain. For that, we need something else – **to ‘look outside ourselves.’ (Rev Banks, Binsey Mission)**

We believe that spirituality refers to an individual's search for meaning, purpose, and connection to something larger than themselves, whether that's a higher power, nature, or a sense of interconnectedness with others and the universe.

It can involve a belief in a higher power, a sense of interconnectedness with nature, or a recognition of a deeper reality beyond the physical world.

Spirituality is a deeply personal experience, and what it means to one person can differ significantly from another.

Developing spirituality at Ireby

At Ireby, we develop spirituality by firstly having a shared understanding. Governors and staff have spent time discussing this and recording their thoughts on this document.

Windows, mirrors and doors:

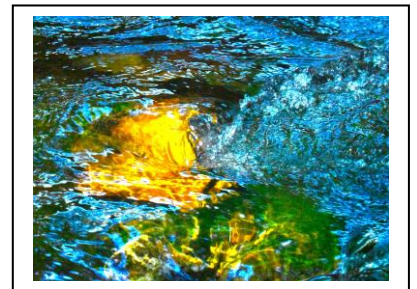
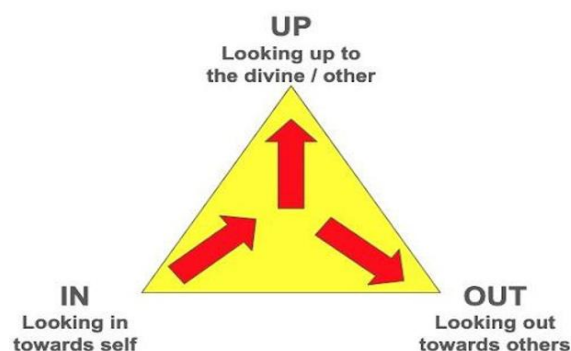
At Ireby, we often refer to spirituality with the children as **windows, mirrors and doors** and you will see these words on display around our school.

Windows: We give our pupils opportunities to become aware of the world in new ways. Learning about life in all its fullness. This includes both the things that amaze them and also challenge them.

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

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

We encourage our children to:



Developing spirituality through our collective worship:

Collective Worship is a special time during our busy days. We create lovely spaces in to which children and staff are invited to gather for worship. There is a flow to all our worship, we **gather** – lighting candles to signify the start and end of this special time, playing carefully chosen music to reflect the theme. We **engage** children through questions, sharing a Bible story and discussing its meaning. **We respond** – giving opportunity for prayers and reflection and lastly, we **send** – our children back to daily life with a task or challenge to which we return. Learning from the teachings of Jesus and reflecting on how this can give us an example to follow – and give purpose to our lives through our vision, **‘Created to Do Good’ Ephesians 2:10.**

Developing our spirituality through our understanding of faith:

We explore deep questions through our faith. The Bible is our guide. It tells us stories about the creation of our universe and how to understand right from wrong. Through studying the life of Jesus, we learn about how we can live our life and give purpose to all our actions. Christians learn to communicate with God through prayer. The ability to be still, to be calm and to find answers through God gives us a pathway to understanding the answers to some of our biggest questions – and helps us to understand that we are ‘created to do good.’

Developing spirituality through our curriculum:

We develop spirituality through our curriculum. At every opportunity, we take time to stop and to connect with the world around us, to wonder at creation and think about the questions we have. Whether it is a geography field trip to the lakes, rivers and mountains, learning to appreciate through photography or visiting places of worship in cities and towns. We take time to connect, to learn from the experience and from people.

Developing spirituality through our teaching of Religious Education:

Our Religion and Worldviews curriculum supports our children's spiritual development through studying a rich curriculum which engages our children in some of the world's most fundamental questions: ‘How did the world begin?’, ‘What is God's job?’, ‘What makes us human?’, ‘Who was Jesus really?’ and ‘What happens when we die?’. It enables us to teach our children dignity and respect through experiencing our world, meeting people and learning from them—understanding how different religious worldviews help people to reflect on these questions, how they seek to answer to them and through this gain meaning and purpose. We take every opportunity to demonstrate to children religious and cultural diversity across our globe – through our stories, music and pictures.

Developing spirituality by learning from the experience of others:

Throughout our curriculum we seek to understand the world and develop spirituality through learning from others. We look to ensure they meet with people of all faiths – to learn directly from them. By the time they leave Ireby, our children will visited places of worship and met people from the religions of Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Bahai and visited cities with a mix of religions and cultures. Throughout our curriculum, they will meet with photographers, artists, people who help us, people who protect our environment, people who lead us. Through these experiences, our children grow their understanding of the world and its people – and through this awareness, understanding, thoughts and convictions putting in to practise their own thoughts and convictions.

Developing spirituality through daily school life:

Our Christian vision flows through all our work and play. Children learn respect and dignity in all their daily interactions, with each other and with adults. They learn it through the work they do in their community and through supporting others. We learn spirituality through all we do.

Developing spirituality for all:

Of course, as a Church school, we are founded on the principle of welcoming children of faith, different faiths, and no faith at all and this underpins all our work.

We are dedicated to growing a strong and loving community using our unique talents and passions to serve and love one another. We learn how God teaches us to live our lives, how to grow relationships, accept others and use the words and example of Jesus as a foundation for all our learning. **‘We are one big family, made up of lots of different people.’**

Spirituality is a deeply personal experience, and what it means to one person can differ significantly from another – and so we make sure that we are thoughtful with our words and let our children develop spirituality in a way that is unique to them.