Opportunities for Spiritual Development in Orton CE Primary School Life

This table provides a high-level overview of some of the opportunities for spiritual development that exist in the world around us.

Orton CE Primary School Vision

At Orton CE Primary School, spiritual development is central to our vision and Christian distinctiveness. Our School vision is based around the Parable of the Sower which teaches us that given the right conditions we can all thrive and flourish. Rooted in our Christian values of **Love, Forgiveness and Hope**, we seek to provide opportunities for every child to flourish as a unique individual, develop meaningful relationships, engage with the wider world and explore life's big questions. Spiritual development is not confined to Religious Education or Collective Worship; it permeates every aspect of school life.

Spirituality at Orton CE Primary School encourages children to:

- Develop an understanding of themselves and their place in the world.
- Experience awe, wonder and curiosity.
- Reflect deeply on life's questions and experiences.
- Build meaningful relationships with others.
- Explore their relationship with God.
- Develop compassion, courage and responsibility.
- Live out our school values in everyday life.



	Who I Am	My relationships with others	The world around me	My relationship with the divine
Spirituality In Collective Worship	• Exploring Biblical texts that explicitly celebrate our unique identity and intrinsic value as humans created in God's image, e.g. … • Exploring our unique worth as individuals created and loved by God • Exploring Biblical texts that reassure us in our imperfection, in the context of God's unconditional love for us, e.g. … • Exploring Biblical wisdom literature that encourages us in our capacity to change, grow and improve. • Using songs, psalms and liturgy that encourage a sense of joy in who we are as individuals • Whole school celebration of pupil achievements, extra-curricular activities and personal growth through Stars Assemblies. • Reflecting on personal strengths, talents and aspirations.	• Exploring Bible stories and teaching that emphasise compassion, forgiveness and community (e.g. The Good Samaritan). • Exploring themes of friendship, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation. • Children leading worship and sharing reflections. • Celebrating acts of kindness and service within our community. • Celebrating shared achievements in worship fostering mutual respect. • Use of 'Open the Book' teams to explore bible texts around relationships through drama. •	• Exploring Biblical texts that teach about the nature of creation and stewardships and how nature points to God's character, for example Genesis 1 & 2 and Isaiah. • Seasonal celebrations including Harvest, Christmas and Easter to connect pupils to seasons and natural cycles. • Wondering about the beauty of God's creation in our rural setting. • Outdoor reflection and worship opportunities. • Songs and prayers linked to care for creation and awe in nature.	• Worship themes exploring our relationship with God through Jesus. • Daily prayer and reflection opportunities. • Reflection areas in classrooms. • Exploring biblical texts that explore God's love for us in the OT, and especially the Gospels and Letters of the NT that explore our relationship with God through forgiveness. • Invitational and inclusive opportunities for prayer, reflection, stillness and silence. • Worship that explores the nature of God's love and forgive • Liturgical responses and blessings used to build awareness of the divine. • Visits from clergy and Christian visitors. • Open the Book • NISCU

Orton CE School is a happy place to learn, grow and thrive.

Spirituality In Religious Education	• Learning about Christianity in detail and developing and understanding of how Christian beliefs about our place in the created order gives intrinsic value and purpose to our lives. • Learning about how Christianity is an important part of our cultural heritage in the United Kingdom. • Opportunities to explore 'big questions' about life and purpose. • Learn about Christian Values behaviours • Exploring identity, belonging, purpose and meaning. • Reflecting on personal beliefs and values.	• Learning about how people live out their faith in relationships (e.g. forgiveness, kindness). • Learning how faith influences behaviour and relationships. • Exploring justice, kindness and forgiveness across faith traditions. • Opportunities to explore the Golden Rule (treat others the way you want to be treated) across faiths. • Opportunities to speak to representatives of different faiths through visits, as well as virtual and in person visitors to school, to explore how other faiths shape the lives of their adherents and especially their relationships with others, through charitable giving and community work, etc.	• Links to festivals and practices that connect people to seasons and sacred places. • Exploring religious stories that involve nature or creation (e.g. Genesis, Diwali). • Using Questful RE and to explore in detail the concept of Creation. • Exploring creation across faith traditions. • Understanding the importance of sacred places. • Learning about pilgrimages and places of spiritual significance. • Learning about sacred places and festivals. • Understanding how faith shapes communities around the world. • Appreciating and respecting diversity and different world views.	• Engaging with sacred texts and understanding Christian and other faiths' understandings of God. • Using Questful RE to explore in detail the nature of God (including the idea of the Trinity), and to explore how God relates to us through the Incarnation and Gospel . • Opportunities for personal responses and spiritual questioning and reflection. • Prayer, reflection and responding to spiritual questions. • Exploring different ways people express faith.
Spirituality In the Curriculum	• A sense of wonder in science lessons at who I am as a physical human and how my body works. • Opportunities to use writing in literacy to explore my own voice and practice using it in a range of contexts, written and oral. • Using foundation subjects such as Art, Music, etc. to build a sense of joy in our own creative abilities • Using writing, art, music and drama to express thoughts and feelings. • Using foundation subjects such as D&T, Computing etc. to develop a pride and satisfaction in our ability to solve problems, and creatively build meaningful projects. • Developing resilience through challenge and perseverance. • Building confidence, self-esteem, emotional literacy and self-awareness. • Reflecting on personal achievement and growth. • Developing self-regulation through Decider Skills. • Reflecting on personal wellbeing and growth.	• Group work and discussion across subjects promoting empathy and cooperation. • Debate, discussion and respectful disagreement. • Use of story and drama to explore emotions and relationships. • Developing empathy through literature, PSHE and history. • PSHE units that specifically explore healthy relationships with others in families and friendships. • Exploring the impact of historically significant Christians and their actions for others, e.g. Martin Luther King, Florence Nightingale, Nelson Mandela etc. • Taking responsibility through pupil leadership roles - School Council, Eco Council and Arts Council. • Supporting one another through friendship and community. • Serving and supporting younger pupils in mixed age classes.	• Whole school times to focus on the restorative and positive impact on our school community of being in creation together. • Geography and history topics that prioritise a sense of place and belonging. • Awe and wonder through scientific discovery. • Appreciation of beauty through art and music. • Exploring the rural environment through fieldwork and outdoor learning. • Learning about local heritage and the history of Orton. • Environmental stewardship through Eco Schools work and school gardening. • Comparing life in different countries through studies such as Ankoma, Ghana.	• Art, music, and poetry to express the inexpressible and respond to beauty. • Reflective practices, including journaling and classroom reflection areas. • Opportunities for reflection through music, art, poetry and storytelling. • Christian visitor events. • Exploring theological concepts through Questful RE and Understanding Christianity. • Charlie's Church
Spirituality beyond the Curriculum	• A wide range of extra-curricular clubs that allow pupils to develop a sense of their unique range of creative abilities and talents • Participation in competitive sports that develop self-belief, determination and resilience. • Opportunities to perform and be creative • Residential visits developing independence and resilience. • Learning to play musical instruments and perform.	• Working together on residentials, visits and environmental projects. Learning cooperation and mutual support. • Supporting one another through friendship and community. • Supporting community initiatives – Singing at the Farmers Market, Drop In & Tebay Services, Church Exhibition, Farmers Market, Scarecrow festival. • Community events and intergenerational projects. • Supporting local charities and causes. • Building friendships through clubs, sport and residentials. • Serving and supporting younger pupils in mixed age classes and throughout the school.	• After School Clubs such as Art and gardening Club that cultivate a connection with the landscape around us. • School garden projects and growing food. • Taking responsibility for and pride in improving our school and community. • Eco Schools initiatives. • Outdoor visits and residential experiences. • Caring for God's creation through environmental projects.	• After School Clubs such as Art and gardening Club that cultivate a connection with the landscape around us. • Links with All Saints Church and the Methodist Chapel. • Charlie's Church. • Working with NISCU • Church services throughout the year. • After School art Club (free) led by Andi from NISCU • Opportunities for prayer and reflection outside the classroom. • Opportunities for quiet reflection in reflection areas

Spirituality Through Courageous Advocacy and Service	• Understanding that individual actions can make a difference. • Developing confidence to speak up for what is right. • Recognising personal responsibility and agency.	• School Council, Eco Council and Arts Council leadership. • Supporting others in school and the wider community. • Developing empathy through service projects.	• Learning about global inequalities and environmental responsibility. • Understanding our place in a wider world community. • Exploring sustainability and stewardship.	• Living out Christian values through action. • Reflecting on how faith inspires service. • Understanding how faith inspires positive change. • Responding to injustice with compassion and hope.

Collective Worship

Our worship programme provides regular opportunities for children to reflect on Christian values and consider how these apply to their own lives.

This includes:

- Daily collective worship
- Open the Book worship
- Pupil-led worship
- Stars Assemblies
- Church services throughout the year
- Prayer and reflection activities
- Worship led by local clergy and visitors
- Charlie's Church sessions for younger children

Courageous Advocacy and Service

Children are encouraged to recognise injustice, act compassionately and understand that they can make a positive difference in the world.

Examples include:

- Partnership with Ankoma, Ghana
- Sponsorship of Georgina
- Hosting the Dreamers
- Eco Council initiatives
- School Council leadership
- Arts Council Leadership
- Community fundraising projects
- Support for Breast Cancer Now
- Intergenerational work with members of the local community
- Toilet Twinning and other charitable initiatives

Spirituality Through the Arts

Children are encouraged to experience wonder, beauty and creativity through:

- ArtsMark programme
- Art, music and drama performances
- Instrumental tuition
- School productions
- Young Voices
- U Dance
- Creative writing and poetry
- The professionally recorded Orton School Song written by pupils

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Spirituality Through the Curriculum

Children are encouraged to ask questions, explore ideas and develop a sense of wonder through all curriculum areas.

Examples include:

Science	• Awe and wonder through exploration of the natural world. • Investigating life cycles, evolution, space and the human body. • Developing curiosity through enquiry-based learning
Geography	• Exploring diverse cultures and environments. • Understanding human and physical geography. • Learning about Ankoma and comparing different ways of life.
History	• Reflecting on how people lived in the past. • Understanding significant people and events. • Considering questions of justice, leadership and change
English	• Exploring human experiences through high-quality texts. • Developing empathy through literature. • Expressing thoughts, feelings and beliefs through writing.
PSHE	• Developing self-awareness and emotional understanding. • Learning about relationships and identity. • Building resilience and confidence.

Spirituality Through Community

As a small rural Church school, relationships are at the heart of our community.

Children experience spirituality through:

- Strong partnerships with All Saints Church and the Methodist Chapel
- Village events and celebrations
- Greenholme Show
- Harvest Festival
- Community services
- Residential visits
- Educational visits and visitors
- Working alongside parents, governors and volunteers
- Participation in local environmental and heritage projects

Monitoring and Review

Spiritual development is promoted through all areas of school life and is monitored through:

- Collective Worship monitoring
- RE monitoring
- Pupil voice
- Governor visits
- Curriculum monitoring
- SIAMS development activities
- School self-evaluation processes

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