



“Let your light shine before others”

Matthew 5 v 16

Selwood Academy’s Spirituality Policy

At Selwood Academy we recognise that spiritual development is concerned with how individuals acquire beliefs, values and personal experience that is of enduring worth. We recognise that spiritual development plays a significant part in the pupil’s ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that gives pupils the opportunity to explore and develop their own beliefs, values and spiritual awareness. This spiritual growth of pupils is not only dependent on learning in Religion and Philosophy but rather opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners are developed in every aspect of our school life.

This policy works in conjunction with the School’s Core Christian Values: Hope, Wisdom, Joy and Community and our school vision:

We are committed to creating a safe, happy and enriching environment where we all aspire to thrive, achieve and celebrate success together.

Our aim is to promote the dignity and well-being of every child and staff member and ensure they flourish in the course of their journey with us.

Definition

At Selwood Spirituality is:

When you are aware of, and think about YOUR INNER WORLD, with the aim of improving YOUR life and the WORLD around you. Sometimes these are referred to as ‘PAUSE MOMENTS’

So spiritual moments in lessons/school life will be when we give you a chance to:

Reflect on past experiences with the aim of learning from them, improving your life and learning more about who you are.

Become aware of WOW moments in lessons.

Explore your future dreams and ambitions.

Improve your relationship to others and to your own WELLBEING.

Spiritual development

In order to foster spiritual development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God
- develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith

Non-Statutory Policy
Published to Website

Responsible Committee: SLT
Date Last Reviewed: February 2023
Date to be Reviewed: February 2026

- develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them
- develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (eg using their gifts and abilities in the service of others)
- develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life
- develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth
- understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others.

Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring:

- the curriculum and all areas of our community life will be explicitly rooted in our Christian values, such as Hope, Wisdom, Community and Joy
- opportunities for spiritual development will be pro-actively planned into the curriculum and actively encouraged in all areas of school life
- daily collective Worship will celebrate the love of God for every individual and provide opportunities for children to respond to this. Pupils 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 liturgy and are introduced to different musical traditions.
- the school building and outdoor environment will provide appropriate spaces for silence, stillness and prayer (eg peace garden, legacy garden, The Haven and Forest Skills area)
- that children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight will be fostered through the creative arts and interactive multi-sensory teaching strategies
- that an outstanding Religion and Philosophy (R&P) curriculum will deliver knowledge and understanding about a range of faith perspectives relating to spirituality. Learning activities in R&P 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 and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews
- that pupils will be given as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed, cherished and protected

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team monitor spirituality within the curriculum through QA sessions and discussions with middle leaders, teachers and pupils. We review the policy every three years in partnership with the school community and consider any views expressed by parents, pupils and staff in order to make any changes or recommendations. We evaluate our processes through internal and external inspections. From those we create action plans to address areas of development.

Non-Statutory Policy
Published to Website

Responsible Committee: SLT
Date Last Reviewed: February 2023
Date to be Reviewed: February 2026

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 SIAMS Lead is responsible for supporting and leading spiritual development in our school, including monitoring opportunities for spiritual growth in collective worship, the whole curriculum (including R&P) 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
- Lead and develop the school's self-evaluation framework for SIAMS

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, ECTs and the wider school community receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams.

Non-Statutory Policy
Published to Website

Responsible Committee: SLT
Date Last Reviewed: February 2023
Date to be Reviewed: February 2026