

SPIRITUALITY GUIDANCE POLICY

Nurturing Spiritual Growth, Christian Faith, and Personal Flourishing

1. School Context, Motto & Core Values

Scriptural Anchor (Isaiah 40:31):

"But those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint."

At St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Colton (part of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust), our spiritual guidance framework is firmly rooted in our Christian foundation and expressed through our school motto: **"Believe and Achieve"**. We empower every child to build faith in God and confidence in themselves, helping them flourish academically, socially, and spiritually.

Our community is bound together by three core Christian values:

- **Love:** Cultivating a safe, caring, and nurturing environment where every child feels cherished as a unique individual created by God.
- **Respect:** Fostering mutual respect, honoring diverse beliefs, demonstrating environmental stewardship, and valuing every voice.
- **Friendship:** Encouraging warmth, forgiveness, empathy, and active fellowship across our school family and local Colton community.

2. Understanding & Nurturing Everyday Spirituality

Spiritual development concerns life's fundamental questions of meaning, purpose, self-awareness, and connections with God, others, and creation. It is unique to each individual and independent of religious affiliation. At St Mary's, we teach pupils to notice and explore life through three accessible lenses:

Everyday Lens	Meaning & Practical School Application
The NOWs	Noticing the present moment — mindful reflection, stillness, quiet focus, and daily gratitude in learning.
The WOWs	Experiencing awe and wonder — encounters with creation, scientific discovery, music, poetry, and artistic beauty.
The OWs	Navigating challenges, sadness, loss, and difficult 'Big Questions' within a safe, loving Christian community.

3. Practical Framework: Windows, Mirrors, and Doors

To make spiritual reflection a practical reality, St Mary's structures worship, RE, and curriculum opportunities around the **Windows, Mirrors, and Doors** framework:

Framework Element	Spiritual Focus	School Practice & Classroom Application
WINDOWS (Looking Out)	Beauty, Awe & World Awareness	Giving pupils opportunities to look out into the world, appreciate creation, encounter awe and mystery, and engage with 'Big Questions' about life and faith.
MIRRORS (Looking In)	Self, Identity & Inner Reflection	Providing quiet reflection spaces and stilling times where pupils look inward to examine their feelings, identity, personal choices, and relationship with God.
DOORS (Looking Outward)	Action, Empathy & Change	Empowering pupils to open doors into the wider community by living out Love, Respect, and Friendship. Pupils act as 'agents of change' through charity work and advocacy.

4. Inclusive Provision: The Nine Spiritual Styles (Sacred Pathways)

We recognize that pupils connect with God and spirituality in diverse ways. Staff incorporate the **Nine Spiritual Styles** into teaching, reflection spaces, and extra-curricular opportunities:

Spiritual Temperament	Core Expression	Practical Classroom & School Activities
Naturalists	Loving God outdoors	Nature scavenger hunts, outdoor reflection, art with natural objects, iPad nature photos.
Sensates	Loving God with the senses	Playdough reflection, candles/incense, baking bread linked to Bible stories, percussion.
Traditionalists	Loving God through ritual	Festival traditions, daily/weekly prayer moments, holding-crosses and prayer pebbles.
Ascetics	Loving God in solitude	Quiet reflection corners inside and outside, silent reading, contemplative art.
Activists	Loving God through advocacy	Discussing news & justice, supporting local foodbanks, school social action projects.
Caregivers	Loving God by loving others	Writing encouragement cards, secret acts of kindness, supporting peers who struggle.
Enthusiasts	Loving God with celebration	Pentecost 'Spiritual Birthday' celebrations, lively worship songs, drama and dance.
Contemplatives	Loving God through adoration	Single-word centring prayers, walking Stations of the Cross, reading Psalms, prayer journals.
Intellectuals	Loving God with the mind	Debating 'Big Questions', historical Bible study, watching documentaries, deep inquiry.

5. Roles & Responsibilities Across the School Community

Community Group	Key Responsibilities in Nurturing Spirituality
School Staff & Leadership	• Model core Christian values of Love, Respect, and Friendship in exemplary conduct. • Maintain stimulating classroom reflection areas equipped for quiet contemplation. • Capitalize on spontaneous 'spiritual moments' during lessons and daily school life. • Plan and deliver inspiring Collective Acts of Worship aligned with Anglican values.
Pupils & Spiritual Council	• Engage thoughtfully in quiet reflection areas and live out school values daily. • Show genuine respect and understanding for differing beliefs and views. • Join the Spiritual Council to help plan and lead Bible meditation worship using the Windows, Mirrors, and Doors model.
Parents & Carers	• Read stories daily at home to explore rich moral themes (courage, kindness, empathy). • Encourage quiet reflection and share in community church services and celebrations. • Model reflection by admitting to mistakes and practicing genuine apology and reconciliation.

6. Statutory Alignment & Trust Framework

St Mary's operates under the oversight of The Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust (TSSMAT) and in full alignment with OFSTED evaluation guidelines for Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) development:

- **Anglican Foundation:** All spiritual provision honors our Church status, offering structured Christian worship while welcoming pupils of all faiths and none.
- **Spirited Arts:** Pupils participate in the national RE 'Spirited Arts' competition, responding to deep questions through poetry, painting, drama, photography, and sculpture.
- **Spiritual Growth Evaluation:** Pupils are encouraged to reflect with increasing sensitivity, evaluate diverse interpretations, develop personal insight, and apply Christian values in daily life.

St Mary's Primary School Commitment:

"Through faith, love, respect, and friendship, we nurture each child to soar on wings like eagles — believing in God, believing in themselves, and achieving their full potential."