



Dream big, shine bright

St NICHOLAS

C of E Primary School, Alcester

Spirituality Policy



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At St Nicholas C of E Primary School, our Christian vision is to "Dream Big, Shine Bright". Inspired by Matthew 5:16—"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Our curriculum is designed to foster curiosity, high aspirations, and a love of learning. With a hands-on, investigative approach, we provide memorable moments and challenges that inspire children to take ownership of their learning.

We believe that spiritual flourishing is key to each child's holistic development, empowering them to dream big and shine bright both now and throughout their lives.

Defining Spirituality in Our Setting

Spiritual flourishing at St Nicholas involves nurturing moments of spiritual growth. These moments are referred to as the "wows, ows, and nows of life." These moments in time lead to wonder, reflection and engagement, helping each individual to discover and express their inner light. Spirituality is within everyone, regardless of religious background, and is fostered through reflection on our relationships with ourselves, others, nature, and God/beyond.

By embracing the "wows, ows, and nows" of life, we are all given the opportunity to ponder life's big questions and grow in spiritual understanding.

Wow Moments of Awe and Wonder



These moments inspire awe and curiosity, leading to reflection on the vastness of creation, the beauty of life, and our place in the world. Through this, we develop a sense of gratitude, connectedness, and reverence for the world around us, which nurtures our relationship with God and others.

Example 1: A child experiences the beauty of nature during a Forest School session by observing tadpoles at different stages of development.

Example 2: observing the harvest moon during the big camp sleepover.

Example 3: Learning about the human body in science prompts deeper questions about how every individual is uniquely and wonderfully made.

Ow Moments of Challenge, Pain, or Difficulty



"Ows" are moments of challenge, pain, or difficulty. Navigating feelings of disappointment or grief serve as valuable opportunities for spiritual growth through learning lessons in empathy, forgiveness, and resilience. Reflecting on these experiences helps them understand and process their emotions, develop compassion for others, and find ways to repair relationships—crucial components of spiritual maturity.

Similarly, grappling with difficulties, such as a challenging math problem, encourages perseverance and cultivates a growth mindset. Children learn that facing and overcoming obstacles is a natural part of life, which builds spiritual resilience. They may also discover the importance of their faith, recognising that they are not alone during tough times.

Example: A child feels upset after a conflict with a friend. This offers the opportunity for growth in empathy, forgiveness, and resilience. By reflecting on these challenges, children can learn to understand and process emotions, develop compassion for others, and seek ways to repair relationships.

Now Moments of Mindfulness 🧘

By being fully engaged in the "now," children learn to quiet their minds, reflect deeply, and feel connected to the present. This mindfulness cultivates a sense of peace, balance, and spiritual awareness that helps them grow both inwardly and outwardly.

Example: During Jigsaw "calm me" time, a child focuses on their breathing, feeling calm and centred in the moment. They listen to the chime, allowing themselves to fully experience the present. This practice of being mindful helps the child develop self-awareness and inner peace. This mindfulness can lead to a sense of gratitude and an ability to find calm in a busy world, which nurtures their spiritual well-being.

Now Moments of Action and Engagement 😊

Nows can be moments of active engagement with the world around us. Moments of courageous advocacy is an example of this. "nows" invite us to live out our values in the present moment and to make positive contributions, both in the immediate school community and beyond.

Example 1: A child sees a peer struggling with a task or feeling excluded and chooses to offer help or invite them to join in. This moment allows children to practice compassion, kindness, and service to others.

Example 2: After learning about the Amazon some children form a group. They lead collective worship to raise awareness and organise a cake sale to raise money. They plan use some of the money to buy and plant trees. This creates space for children to actively live out their faith and values, turning reflection into action. It fosters a sense of responsibility, purpose, and connection to the wider world, as they learn to respond to the needs of others with empathy and care.

God and Spirituality

‘We are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.’ Isaiah 64:8



Everyone had spirituality regardless of faith. As a church school, we invite children to reflect on the part that God might play on their spiritual journey using the following analogy:

Kintsugi is a Japanese word meaning ‘golden joinery’. Artists use golden glue to repair broken pottery bringing unexpected beauty and, in some cases, allowing the light to shine through. The Bible talks about how God creates everyone in God’s image. It also

describes God as a potter and describes everyone being the work of God’s hand. Sometimes pots can crack or break. Sometimes things happen that can make us feel cracked or changed. Christians believe whatever happens to them in life, God is with them. God can fill and mend gaps and put everyone back together. Spirituality is the golden glue.

Furthermore, we invite children to draw inspiration from our vision and the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Joseph's life was filled with “wows, ows, and nows”. Despite facing numerous challenges—such as, being sold into slavery, and enduring unjust imprisonment—Joseph exemplified unwavering trust in God’s plan during his “ows.”

Joseph asked big questions about his purpose in life. He reflected on his dreams, listened to the messages that God was giving him and took action that ultimately saved nations during a time of famine. We are reminded that our actions can impact our communities and beyond. Joseph’s life illustrates that spiritual growth can happen when we navigate life's ups and downs with faith, reflection and action.

Aims for Spiritual Development

Our aim is to promote spiritual flourishing by offering:

- Curiosity: Encouraging children to explore life's big questions and develop a deeper understanding of the world.
- Reflection: Encouraging stillness and self-awareness through moments of calm and quiet in daily routines. For example through prayer, worship Thrive and "calm me" time.
- Creativity: Allowing children to express themselves through art, music, writing, drama and other creative outlets.
- Prayer spaces: Providing dedicated areas where children can engage in prayer, quiet reflection, or contemplation.
- Awe and wonder: Fostering a sense of amazement and gratitude in response to the beauty of the world and the experiences in life.
- Gratitude: Instilling an attitude of thankfulness for life's blessings and challenges.

Objectives for Spiritual Development

We seek to:

- Encourage children to embrace the "ows, wows, and nows" of life, acknowledging both moments of joy and challenge.
- Provide opportunities for students to reflect on their relationship with themselves, others, nature, God, and the wider world through the curriculum.
- Provide opportunities to take action as courageous advocates.
- Promote connections and relationships, helping children to see themselves as part of a greater community and God's creation.

Spirituality in Daily School Life

Spirituality is woven into the fabric of our school life through:

Collective Worship: Collective Worship at St Nicholas is truly welcoming, inclusive and invitational. We seek to inspire all so that they may flourish on their own spiritual journey of belonging, believing and becoming. Collective worship links to all of our values (Christian and British), it fosters a sense of community and is a key way we express our Christian Vision. Children take part in daily Collective Worship, whether this is as a whole school, with their key stage or in class. The rhythm of daily worship invites children to enter a space for reflection and spiritual development.

Outdoor Learning: Through Forest School and OPAL playtimes, children explore nature, fostering a sense of wonder, responsibility, and connection to the natural world.

Thrive: The Thrive Approach promotes spiritual development by supporting the emotional and mental well-being of children in a trauma-informed and holistic way. By helping children understand and manage their emotions, Thrive encourages self-reflection and self-awareness, both of which are key aspects of spiritual growth. It fosters positive relationships and a sense of belonging, allowing children to feel valued and connected to others.

Spirituality in the Curriculum

Religious Education: We follow the locally agreed RE syllabus alongside the Understanding Christianity curriculum. We foster respect for different worldviews and traditions. Children are encouraged to reflect deeply on their own spirituality, ask meaningful questions, and develop a well-rounded understanding of different worldviews. Students gain insight into how different cultures and beliefs shape people's lives and values. This helps them to develop empathy, appreciation for diversity, and a thoughtful perspective on their own beliefs. Religious Education nurtures their spiritual growth, encouraging them to think critically and compassionately about the world around them.

PSHE: We follow Jigsaw which develops spirituality by focusing on the holistic growth of each child, nurturing their emotional literacy, well-being, and sense of uniqueness. By helping children understand and value themselves, Jigsaw encourages self-reflection and self-awareness, key components of spiritual development. It also promotes positive relationships, empathy, and social skills, fostering a sense of connection with others.

Through its focus on mindfulness, emotional regulation, and self-empowerment, Jigsaw enables children to develop inner peace, resilience, and a deeper understanding of their place in the world. This supports spiritual growth as children reflect on their own experiences, build meaningful relationships, and approach life with a sense of purpose and agency.

Science: Our science curriculum is full of opportunities that evoke awe and wonder about the natural world. Engaging in hands-on investigation fosters curiosity and encourages students to be present in their learning.

Geography: Studying diverse cultures, landscapes, and the planet's features lead to moments of wonder and inspire a sense of global citizenship. By exploring human impact on the environment, such as deforestation or urbanization, prompts students to reflect on ethical considerations and their personal contributions to global issues. Field work and outdoor learning experiences help students to connect directly with their environment.

History: Discovering significant historical events and figures creates moments of wonder about human achievements and resilience. Learning about various cultures, traditions, and pivotal moments in history inspires reflection and curiosity about the human experience. Reflecting on historical injustices and struggles prompts students to engage with complex moral questions, such as fairness, equality, and the consequences of actions throughout time. Engaging in learning about past events encourages students to connect their own lives to the broader human story.

Art allows children to explore themes of beauty and identity while fostering personal reflection and creativity. There are many opportunities for both wows and ows.

Music enables children to engage with sounds and rhythms that resonate with their feelings, promoting an understanding of harmony, conflict, and community through singing, playing instruments, and composing.

Monitoring Spiritual Development

The RE and the Curriculum lead, in partnership with the foundation governors, will monitor spiritual development through:

- Bowled over by your books (pupil interviews)
- Book looks

- Learning and environment walks

At St Nicholas C of E Primary School, spiritual flourishing is central to each child's growth. By embracing the "wows, ows, and nows" of life—moments of wonder, challenge, and mindful engagement—we nurture their connection with themselves, others, and God. These experiences shape their character, foster empathy, and inspire purposeful action.

Our vision of "Dream Big, Shine Bright" comes to life as children reflect on these moments and respond with gratitude, compassion, and a sense of responsibility. Through this, they grow spiritually and are empowered to let their light shine, making positive contributions to their community now and throughout their lives.