



Thriplow C of E Primary School

Member of the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust

Spirituality and Collective Worship Policy

Vision

In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

You are the people of God: he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with kindness. Colossians 3:12

At Thriplow Primary School our vision is to demonstrate God's love by 'clothing ourselves with kindness' and 'shining our light before others'. Every child is encouraged to strive for academic excellence and to make a difference in their own lives, in their families and in the communities we serve.

This policy was ratified:	February 2024
To be reviewed:	Every two years
Reviewed:	
Will be reviewed again:	February 2026

Our School Vision influences the ethos of our school and the policies and practices within it. We believe that spirituality is a core thread that runs throughout school and we attach great importance to it for both children's development and for the growth and well-being of all within our school community. Our aim is that every member of the school community will have the opportunity to flourish.

It is acknowledged that Spirituality is a difficult thing to define in words. Clive Erricker describes spirituality as *'the sense-making activity that both children and adults necessarily carry out as result of the life experiences they encounter'*. As a staff and governor team we have agreed on a definition of spiritual development in our school community to support us as we talk about spirituality: Spirituality is a connection to something that is bigger than ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking ultimate questions and being inspired to look beyond ourselves and serve and care for others and for nature. The school acknowledges that children do not need to be religious in the traditional sense in order to develop their own spirituality but that the school's Christian ethos underpins the Spirituality thread that runs through our school.

Spirituality is not taught, but is an inherent, interwoven part of all aspects of school life and is nurtured and promoted as an element of the curriculum.

Legal Requirements

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 states:

The curriculum for a maintained school or maintained nursery school satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly based curriculum which—

- (a) Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- (b) Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The Ofsted Framework 2021 states that pupil's spiritual development is shown by their:

- Ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life.
- Knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings, and values.
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them.
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning.
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences.

We aim for children and adults to grow in their ability to:

- Live out the school values which are rooted in our vision: hopefulness; service; kindness; compassion; achievement and confidence.
- Link these values to and live out our DEMAT values: love; trust; respect; community and ambition.
- Take personal responsibility.
- Understand fundamental British Values including individual liberty and tolerance of difference faiths and beliefs.
- Be guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand to defend them.
- Be self-aware and empathise with the experience of others in the school and wider community.
- Love themselves, care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve, and find inner strength and resilience facing challenges.
- Exercise imagination and creativity, appreciate beauty in the world and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder.
- Be intrigued by mystery and be open to an awareness of the transcendent in the whole of life.
- Be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection, meditation and/or prayer.
- Be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves and to forgive others.
- Be willing to take risks and to reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success.
- Demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions.
- Appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life like friends and family, and show generosity towards others.

We support pupils in their spiritual development by:

- Providing opportunities for spiritual development in collective worship (see below).
- Providing opportunities for spiritual development in RE (see RE policy).
- Providing opportunities for spiritual development in the wider curriculum by: -
 - Exploring the world around them in subjects such as geography and science.
 - Exploring history and making sense of where they have come from and the morality of what has gone before.
 - Exploring different faiths and worldviews through art e.g. looking closely at Islamic Art.
 - Through art, considering the beauty of the world around us.
 - Developing an appreciation of nature and the outdoors in wildspace sessions.
 - Working collaboratively to solve problems both academically and socially.
 - Reading a range of texts in English and considering different perspectives outlined by a variety of authors.
 - Unlocking the intricacies of language by learning Latin.
 - Unlocking opportunities to learn further by prioritising the teaching of reading.
 - Promoting a love of reading.
 - Providing opportunities for discussion in PSHE and developing the skill of listening to and considering the viewpoints of others.
 - Giving younger children the opportunity to share what is important to them in Show and Tell sessions.
- Capturing opportunities for awe and wonder as they arise, for example by: -
 - School trips
 - Residentials
 - Nativity
 - Key Stage 2 production
 - GenR8
 - Theatre
 - Choir
 - Visitors e.g. musicians
 - Inspiring athletes
 - KS concerts
 - O2
 - Science experiments
 - Wildspace – nature
 - Knowledge
- Creating reflective spaces in school for children to pray, worship and reflect.
- Giving the children the opportunity to listen to inspirational music in Collective Worship relating to the theme.
- Offering pupils the opportunity to develop their own spiritual leadership, through leading collective worship and other opportunities. This is achieved through: -
 - Leading prayer time.
 - Worship lead – reciting the opening sentence.
 - Key Stage 2 leading in Holy Communion.
 - Serving in Holy Communion.
 - Reading an opening passage – a passage from the Bible after the opening sentence.
 - Key Stage assemblies which are age appropriate in order to give specific Key Stages greater involvement.
 - Year 6 setting up the environment for Collective Worship and ensuring that the liturgical colour is correct and that due reverence is paid to the worship table.
 - Leading younger children in play.

- Lunchtime prayers.
- End of day prayers.
- Providing each child in Key Stage 2 with a Bible which they can refer to both in RE lessons and for their own reference in school.
- Recognising that spirituality is for all children, regardless of their background and including those with Special Educational Needs. We recognize that all children have spiritual sensitivity and spiritual hunger to some degree and children have the right to have their spiritual lives taken seriously.

As a staff team:

- We have a staff understanding of spiritual development
- We have a culture within our school that recognises the importance of spirituality to individuals, both children and staff
- We revisit spirituality as an area for consideration in our staff meetings.
- Spirituality is monitored by governors during Collective Worship sub-committee meetings whereby the HT is invited to share the impact of the spirituality policy. During governor visits, governors are invited to share in Collective Worship and monitor the impact that this and other aspects of Spirituality are having on the children throughout the school day.
- We ensure new staff are aware of our school policy on spiritual development.
- We seek to have a variety of spiritual spaces both inside and outside of the school building.
- We share with parents, whenever possible, the outcomes of our focus on spiritual development through newsletters, social media, displays and our website.
- We discuss spirituality with our local church, St. George's in Thriplow and others who can further support this thread.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place each day. We come together as a community before God. Daily worship is rooted in Christianity and covers our 6 chosen school values (service, hopefulness, confidence, kindness, compassion and achievement) linked to the 5 DEMAT values (trust, ambition, community, love and respect). Pupils and staff come together for their spiritual time to reflect on their lives and how they live them to the full. Pupils develop their moral and social thinking during worship; each worship has time for silence and reflection to think and pray for what we are grateful for and how that worship will impact on our lives moving forward.

Parts of our Collective Worship are led by the children. After a group has set up the environment for Collective Worship, our Year 6 Worship Lead begins by leading the school in an opening sentence and children from all year groups lead the school in prayer.

Our usual format for Collective Worship is as follows:

Monday	Headteacher-led Collective Worship – whole school
Tuesday	Key Stage Collective Worship
Wednesday	Clergy-led Collective Worship
Thursday	Praise Collective Worship (worship through song)
Friday	Celebration Collective Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated half-termly in school. Harvest and Christmas are celebrated in the local church and Jesus's Journey to the Cross is marked in the local church at the end of the Spring Term.

Parents are aware that they have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship if their own religious beliefs or worldviews make this necessary. In this instance, parents would be invited to meet with the headteacher to discuss.

Policy dated: January 2024