

# St Paul's Church of England Primary School

## an academy in the Good Shepherd Trust



## Spiritual Development Policy

Date adopted:	1.1.26	Last reviewed:	
Review cycle:	2 Years	Is this policy statutory?	No
Approval:		Author:	Emily Peacock
Local approval*:		Local author*:	
Next review Date	1.1.28		

\* only for policy/procedures that are templates and require local adaptation.

### Revision record

Minor revisions should be recorded here when the policy is amended in light of changes to legislation or to correct errors. Significant changes or at the point of review should be recorded below and approved at the level indicated above.

Revision No.	Date	Revised by	Approved date	Comments

## Introduction

At St Paul's, we ignite a passion for life and learning in every member of our school community by providing the best possible education, where children and adults grow through our core values rooted in FAITH and confidently succeed through the strength and love of God.

*“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”*  
(Proverbs 22:6)

Our Christian vision shapes every aspect of school life. Spiritual development enables this vision to be lived out daily, helping pupils and adults flourish as individuals created in the image of God, gifted with purpose, dignity, and potential.

## Spiritual Development at St Paul’s

At our Church of England primary school, spiritual development is at the heart of everything we do. Rooted in Christian values and traditions, we provide a nurturing environment where children are encouraged to explore questions of meaning, purpose, and faith. Spiritual growth is woven throughout the curriculum and daily life of the school.

As Derek Holloway writes, spiritual development is intrinsic to every part of our work:

*“I would strongly contend that in all schools, and certainly in Church schools, that spiritual development is not something you should hide away in a couple of curriculum boxes or treat as an afterthought. It must be something that should influence all areas of education as it does all areas of life.”*

We believe that spiritual development is a core thread that runs through our school and is vital for the flourishing of all within our community. In Acts 17:28, the Apostle Paul says that in God *“we live and move and have our being”*; becoming more aware of our innate spirituality is a lifelong journey, and it is our desire that all at St Paul’s, children and adults alike, move forward on that journey during their time here.

Our FAITH values express our theological understanding of human flourishing:

- **Friendship** reflects the Christian call to community
- **Achievement** honours God-given gifts
- **Integrity** mirrors Christ-like character
- **Trust** grows from faithful relationships
- **Health** embraces flourishing in mind, body, and spirit

These values shape how we understand spirituality and how we nurture it in pupils and adults.

## Aims

Our aim is to establish the right learning environment to enable the spiritual flourishing of all pupils and adults through the following objectives:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as children made in the image of God
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's Christian values and the biblical teaching that underpins them, as well as the context, language, and symbolism of the Christian faith
- Develop an awareness of and respect for other people's beliefs and faiths, and the ability to articulate their own
- Foster self awareness and encourage pupils to make informed decisions-awareness and encourage pupils to make informed decisions
- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be part of a community, using their gifts in the service of others and valuing difference and diversity
- Develop the skills and language needed to reflect on big questions and mysteries of life, and on experiences of awe, compassion, and beauty
- Begin to understand and make sense of their own feelings and emotions, recognising that disappointment, failure, and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth
- Encourage curiosity, creativity, and imagination

These objectives enable pupils and adults to develop respect, awareness, compassion, curiosity, and understanding, and to form relationships that reflect order, reason, balance, and integrity within the context of Christian faith.

As overarching aims, our approach to spiritual development will:

- Reflect the school's Church of England status
- Reflect and strengthen the school's Christian vision and ethos
- Take place within a school environment that enables pupils and adults to flourish

We recognise the importance of working in partnership with our parish church in shaping our shared understanding of spirituality and ensuring it is rooted in our Christian vision and values.

## **Our Shared Understanding of Spirituality**

Spiritual development at St Paul's is the growth of each person's inner life so they can recognise their God given worth, explore meaning and purpose, and flourish through our FAITH values. It nurtures curiosity, reflection, imagination, and compassion so that children and adults learn to see themselves, others, and the world with depth, hope, and gratitude.

We have taken inspiration from the book 'Explore... The Language of Spirituality in Collective worship' and have adopted the language of Wow, Ow and Now to explore our spirituality in the fantastic times, the hard times and the quiet, ordinary times.

This understanding shapes a school culture where reflection is valued, questions are welcomed, and every individual is supported to grow spiritually as well as academically.

## **Provision**

### **Collective Worship**

Daily worship provides opportunities for reflection, prayer, and celebration, helping children and adults connect with God, with one another, and with the wider world.

## **Christian Values in Action**

Our ethos is shaped by values such as compassion, respect, forgiveness, and hope. Children are encouraged to live these values in their relationships and decision making.

## **Curriculum Opportunities**

Across subjects, pupils reflect on awe and wonder, consider moral choices, and appreciate creativity and beauty as expressions of the divine.

## **Personal Reflection**

Quiet spaces and guided opportunities enable pupils to pause, reflect, and develop their own sense of identity and spirituality. Whole school pause days explore particular spiritual themes.

## **Community and Service**

Spiritual development is fostered through active participation in the school and wider community. Children visit church regularly, lead services, support charitable projects, and contribute through music and service. These experiences help pupils grow in wisdom, compassion, and faith.

## **CPD and Training**

Staff are equipped to support spiritual development within the context of a Church of England school. Diocesan led training supports those with responsibility for planning and evaluating spiritual development.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring focuses on how well we create meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth. We review provision regularly to ensure it reflects our Christian vision and FAITH values.

- Listening to pupils and observing their responses
- Discussing provision in staff and governor meetings
- Sharing classroom practice and pupils' work
- Ensuring staff understand our approach through induction and training
- Reviewing evidence in pupils' work, including reflective writing, RE, SMSC, art, and creative work
- Including spiritual development in the SEF
- Providing CPD and sharing good practice with partner schools
- Evaluating activities such as collective worship

We look for impact in pupils' curiosity, empathy, sense of purpose, relationships, decision making, and ability to reflect on themselves and the world.

## **Opportunities for the Spiritual Flourishing of Adults**

The spiritual flourishing of adults is integral to the flourishing of pupils. We consider how routines and practices—staff meetings, CPD, collective worship and church services—support the spiritual life of

adults in our community, recognising that spiritually nourished adults are better able to nurture the spiritual growth of children.