



Spiritual Development Policy

Hope Brook C of E Primary School



Growing together with God's love to bring hope to the world.

At Hope Brook C of E Primary School, we want all members of the school community to continually **grow** in our learning and our understanding of ourselves, each other and the wider world. We seek to do this **together** as an inclusive community where everyone is welcomed, valued and nurtured. As a Church of England School, we are inspired by the message and actions of Jesus as he shared **hope** and **love** with all he met and spoke about the **Kingdom of God**. Following this example, we aim to bring **hope** by being salt and light in our community and the wider world.

School statement on spirituality

To talk about spirituality is, essentially, to talk about something which is difficult to put into words. To make conversations about spirituality more accessible to every member of our school community, Hope Brook C of E Primary School has chosen to follow ideas developed by the Education Department at the Diocese of Gloucester.

This language of spirituality begins from a Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God, like pots made by a potter (Isaiah 64:8). Yet, in life things happen that impact on the physical 'pot' of life and create cracks that provide a glimpse of something 'beyond' the tangible. Christians would view this as an opportunity to relate to the Divine Creator God.

Cracks may be caused when something so good and breath-taking happens that the pot expands and cracks – the **wows** of life.

Cracks may happen when something challenging happens and threatens the comfort of everyday – the **ows** of life.

Cracks can also happen in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday – the **nows** of life, when a moment of stillness, a pause or prayer creates a crack in the normal, physical everyday.

In these special moments there is a spiritual opportunity. Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with golden joinery or glue, creates something that has been broken into something even more beautiful. Using this metaphor, the **wows**, **ows** and **nows** of life offer the possibility of cracks that are filled with gold and make the pot even more beautiful. The gold in the cracks reflect a little of the wonder of spirituality.

Hope Brook C of E Primary School uses this language and the concepts of **wows**, **ows** and **nows**. These are used to explore relationships with:

- ourselves
- others
- the wider natural world and beyond
- and offering the invitation to relate to God

Our Vision and Spirituality



Growing together with God's love to bring hope to the world.

Our vision drives how we aim to develop spirituality in our school by emphasising the need for all members of our community to be able to grow and flourish, being strong in themselves and enabling them to develop a sense of enjoyment, fascination and compassion for the world around them and other people. Children are encouraged to reflect on their own experiences, beliefs, values and perspectives on life and to develop an understanding and respect for those of others. We aim for the children to then be able to look outwards and make an impact on our community and world.

Organisation

The spiritual growth of pupils is not only dependent on learning in RE, opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners are developed in every aspect of our school life.

We support the whole school community to share this responsibility and to develop the shared language of spirituality. Opportunities are available for all to develop spiritually in our supportive and nurturing school inspired by our vision and lived out through our Christian values. Displays, class reflection areas and prayer boxes and our beautiful grounds provide opportunities for spiritual growth.

We have identified specific areas which contribute to the spiritual growth of pupils: collective worship, the whole curriculum, including RE and the general ethos of the school within daily life.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the beating heart of Hope Brook C of E Primary School. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared.

Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present (**now** moments) which are often linked to invitations to pray.

Through daily Collective Worship, pupils are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They 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. The school Worship Council are strongly involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of collective worship.

Opportunities to reflect on the **wows** of life such as beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise with the **ow** moments of disappointment or pain. Pupils are given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark seasonal Christian festivals and celebrations in the calendars of other faiths. In this way pupils are offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in Hope Brook C of E Primary School is invitational, inspirational and inclusive and seeks to accommodate all beliefs.

Spirituality in Religious Education

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school's approach to RE and spirituality.

Learning activities in RE 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, linking these to pupils' ideas of spirituality and the language of **wows**, **ows** and **nows** where appropriate.

For further details, please refer to Hope Brook C of E Primary School Religious Education Policy and The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement.

Spirituality within the Curriculum

Our school vision aims to enable all children to flourish both internally and through their learning. This drives our curriculum design in all subjects as we seek to enable all children to thrive and to be able to reflect on their growth and spirituality.

Drawing on the language of **wows**, **ows** and **nows**, conversations around spirituality are included in classroom teaching when appropriate from Reception to Year 6. Across the curriculum, there are many opportunities for spiritual reflection, such as:

- Personal reflection;
- Stillness and silence;
- Recognising and expressing their innermost thoughts, feelings and beliefs;
- Developing an appreciation of their uniqueness and their value as a child
- Reflecting on the challenging experiences of life and considering different responses to these;
- Listening to, learning about and valuing the beliefs, values and feelings of others;
- Developing an appreciation of what it means to be part of a community
- Developing the skills and language required when developing curiosity,
- Enabling them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life
- Developing understanding that individuals can change things for the better or worse;
- Understanding the value of difference and diversity
- Raising awareness of the hurt caused by unkind behaviour;
- Experiencing and valuing the natural world and their part in it;
- Valuing and encouraging a sense of wonder and mystery;
- Exploring beauty, order, pattern and purpose in the natural world;
- Celebrating and being celebrated.

Spirituality within the Ethos of the Daily Life of the School

In Hope Brook C of E Primary School we view spiritual growth as becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. These opportunities happen throughout each and every day as children deal with delight, disappointment and the chance to be present with themselves.

For this reason, every member of the school community, including MDSA and administrative staff are familiar with the school's shared language of spirituality and will respond to pupils appropriately.

Throughout the daily life of the school, including lunch times and playtimes, pupils know that their references to **wows**, **ows** and **nows** will be heard and taken seriously. They will be encouraged to reflect on these experiences and be comfortable about talking about the **golden glue of spirituality**.

Playtimes provide many opportunities for children to develop spiritually as they explore our environment in creative and imaginative ways, offering many opportunities for the **wows**, **ows** and **nows** of life to be experienced and shared.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Governors ensure that this policy is fully implemented and that practice is consistent with the school's Christian vision, in line with the school's monitoring policy and schedule for governors.

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 senior leadership team is responsible for supporting and leading spiritual development in our school, including monitoring opportunities for spiritual growth in collective worship, the whole curriculum (including RE) 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
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process particularly around IQ3 *How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?*

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. ECTs and staff who are new to Hope Brook C of E Primary School will receive training and support from the staff member identified as leading on spirituality.

This policy is shared on the school's website and is part of the induction pack for new staff and new governors. This policy is reviewed every 3 years, or more frequently, as required.

Date of policy: September 2023

Date of next review: September 2027

This policy was formulated in consultation with the Headteacher and teaching staff.

This policy was accepted by the Governing Body at their meeting on and will be reviewed annually.