



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF INTENT – SPIRITUALITY

JULY 2025

Vision, Vales and Inclusion Statement

Rooted in our Christian faith, we believe everybody is uniquely made in the image of God, deeply valued and loved. We are committed to nurturing the whole child – academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually – so that all can achieve their full potential. Through an ambitious, enriching curriculum and excellent teaching, we lay the foundations for lifelong learning and personal growth, preparing children to live life in all its fullness.

We aim to inspire our children to believe in themselves and in one another – encouraging resilience, hope, and a sense of purpose. We care for and respect each other, creating a safe, inclusive and compassionate community where diversity is celebrated and everyone's voice is heard and every story matters. United in faith and fellowship, we recognise that we are stronger together – learning, growing and flourishing side by side.

Intent

At St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, we believe that spiritual development is essential to the growth of the whole child. It enables pupils to become confident, compassionate individuals who are reflective, resilient, and respectful. Spirituality underpins our Christian vision and values and supports children in living life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

This statement of intent sets out our understanding of spirituality, our intentions for spiritual development, and how we provide opportunities across the school to nurture this important aspect of life

What is Spirituality?

Spirituality is a deeply personal and often unspoken part of being human. It touches on the moments in life when we pause to reflect, feel awe, ask meaningful questions, and connect with something beyond ourselves. For children, spirituality nurtures a sense of identity, belonging, and purpose. It encourages wonder, empathy, courage, and hope.

Our Definition of Spirituality

At St Andrew's, we understand that spirituality is something special and unique to each of us. It helps us feel connected – to ourselves, to other people, to the world around us, and to something greater than us, like God. It is our shared journey to find meaning, ask big questions, and appreciate the beauty and wonder in life.

Developing Spiritual Awareness

Our aim is to nurture the spiritual development of every child and adult in our school community. We want each individual to grow in self-awareness, to explore their thoughts and emotions, and to develop a deepening sense of compassion and curiosity.

To do this, we will:

- **Create safe spaces** where children can reflect, ask 'big questions', and express their thoughts honestly.
- **Celebrate diversity** of belief and experience, recognising that everyone's spiritual journey is different.

- **Model spiritual curiosity** through discussion, storytelling, prayer, silence, stillness, music, nature and creativity.
- **Encourage awe and wonder** across the curriculum, especially in moments where children encounter beauty, challenge, or mystery.

Implementation

A Shared Language for Spiritual Reflection

At St Andrew's, we use simple but powerful language to help children reflect on their experiences and explore the deeper meaning in everyday moments. This shared vocabulary supports emotional literacy, moral development, and spiritual awareness throughout school life.

We talk about:

OWs – These are “ouch moments” in our hearts. They happen when something makes us feel hurt, sad, or confused—like being left out, seeing someone upset, or struggling with a difficult emotion. OWs help us recognise that pain and disappointment are part of life and deserve attention and compassion.

WOWs – These are “wow moments” that make our hearts feel joyful, loved, or at peace. They might come from watching a beautiful sunset, being comforted by a friend, laughing with someone, or witnessing something inspiring. WOWs awaken our sense of wonder, gratitude, and connection.

VOWs – These are promises from the heart. A VOW might be a quiet decision to be kinder, a promise to look after the planet, or a commitment to forgive someone. Children are encouraged to make VOWs to themselves, to others, or to something greater, such as God. VOWs help build moral responsibility and inner purpose.

POWs – These are powerful moments when we act with bravery, kindness, or conviction—when our VOWs come to life. It might be standing up for a classmate who is being bullied, raising money for a cause, or making a difficult but right choice. POWs are the outward expression of our spiritual and moral growth.

By using this language across lessons, assemblies, and everyday school life, we help children to:

- Name and understand their emotions
- Make sense of moral and spiritual experiences
- Grow in empathy, courage, and resilience

This framework supports our wider intent to help children reflect on life's big questions:

“What does this experience mean about myself, about others, about God, and about the world?”

A Whole-School Approach

Spiritual development at St Andrew's is not limited to Religious Education or Collective Worship. It is part of our ethos, our relationships, and our values. Every member of staff has a role to play in recognising and nurturing the spiritual dimension in each child.

We value reflection, stillness, prayer, and creativity as important tools in this journey. We also embrace the Church of England's vision for education – to enable all children to live life in all its fullness.

Spirituality at St Andrew's is about connection, curiosity, and courage. It is about helping our children grow into compassionate, thoughtful individuals who are equipped to ask deep questions and respond with integrity, hope, and love.

Although spiritual development is deeply personal and not always easily measured, we are committed to observing and reflecting on its impact across the life of our school. We monitor spiritual growth in a way that is sensitive, holistic, and rooted in relationships.

We do this by:

- **Pupil Voice**
Listening to children helps us understand how they experience and express spirituality. We pay attention to how they talk about their feelings, hopes, values, and relationships with others and with God.
- **Observing Behaviour and Relationships**
We look for evidence of compassion, resilience, moral courage, and respect in how children interact. The way they respond to OWs, WOWs, VOWs, and POWs gives insight into their personal growth and emotional maturity.
- **Reflection in Worship and Assemblies**
Collective Worship is a key space for spiritual reflection. We use moments of stillness as indicators of engagement and spiritual awareness.
- **Staff Observations and Reflections**
Staff play a vital role in noticing those spontaneous spiritual moments in the classroom, playground, and wider school life.
- **Work Scrutiny and Learning Walks**
We monitor how spiritual development is embedded across the curriculum by reviewing children's work, displays, and classroom environments. Learning walks and observations help ensure that opportunities for spiritual reflection are actively planned and seized.

