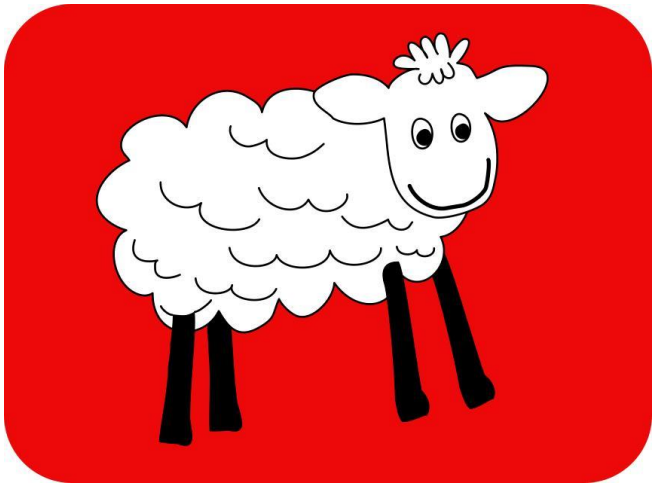


Spirituality Policy

2023

Policy agreed: November 2023

To be reviewed: November 2026

School Statement on Spirituality

To talk about spirituality is, essentially, to talk about something which is beyond words. To make conversations about spirituality more accessible to every member of our school community, Sheepy Magna C of E Primary School has developed this policy.

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).

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; when something challenging happens and threatens the comfort of everyday; and in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday, when a pause or moment of prayer creates a crack in the 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. The gold in the cracks reflect a little of the wonder of spirituality. We can talk about these as the golden glue of our spiritual journey – everyone takes a different path, but everyone is beautiful and special.

Our school Christian Vision:

Our vision links to spirituality through our belief that, With God, all things are possible. This opens up opportunities to question, to wonder, to explore new ideas, concepts and the wonder of nature. Our vision enables pupils to think deeply about all possibilities.

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.

Our Peace Garden; our newly created tree trail; collective worship; the curriculum; and the general ethos of the school within daily life support opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship at Sheepy Magna C of E Primary 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 through our peaceful points and 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 and are introduced to different musical traditions. Opportunities to reflect on wow moments such as beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise with times 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 at Sheepy Magna C of E Primary is invitational and inclusive and we strive for inspirational.

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 other religions and worldviews, linking these to pupils' ideas of spirituality.

For further details, please refer to our Religious Education Policy and The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement.

Spirituality within the Curriculum

Topics start with a big question. This gives the children the chance to question the world around them and explore new ideas. It generates conversation and allows pupils to see the many links between different aspects of our world. It encourages creativity and curiosity in their learning.

Our curriculum encourages children to make their own informed opinions and encourages them to think beyond the tangible. It is engaging and inspiriting, allowing children to learn about things that have a profound meaning to them. It is tailored so that all aspects of the curriculum are accessible for all pupils.

Pupils reflect on their learning, celebrating achievements and successes. Again giving them time and space to delight in the world around them.

Conversations around spirituality will be included in classroom teaching when appropriate from Reception to Year 6.

Spirituality within the Ethos of the Daily Life of the School
At Sheepy, 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.
Throughout the daily life of the school, including lunch times and playtimes, pupils know that their expressed idea will be heard and taken seriously. They will be encouraged to reflect on their experiences and how these times make us who we are: they are the golden glue of our own spiritual journey. Our behaviour policy allows pupils to reflect and modify their behaviours, knowing that forgiveness will always be given and each day is a clean sheet.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation
The Spirituality and Personal Development Committee review the policy in partnership with SLT and consider any views expressed by parents, children and staff in order to make any changes or recommendations. Recommendations are fed back to the full governing body and are then actioned as appropriate.
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 headteacher 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 all staff are familiar with the shared language of spirituality
- Monitoring the opportunities for spiritual growth through regular observations and learning walks, discussions with colleagues and pupil voice
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process

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 Sheepy will receive training and support from the staff member identified as leading on spirituality.

This policy is shared on the school's website.

Prayers used by the School:

Candle / Welcome Prayer
We remember the words of Jesus,
I am the light of the world
Help us to shine as lights
That in the warmth of our love
People may be cheered and comforted.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Lunchtime Prayer
Thank you for this morning
And all that we have learned
Thank you for the good food
That we will now be served.
Amen

End of the day Prayer
Thank you for our lovely day
We've had so much fun and lots of play
We now go home to rest and sleep
And make wonderful memories again next morning.
Amen