



Great Waltham C of E Primary School

Policy for Spirituality

Based on Guidance from the [Diocese of Gloucester's](#)
Board of Education

Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: May 2024
Last reviewed on:	March 2024	
Next review due by:	March 2028	

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Legal Framework: Links to OFSTED and SIAMS expectations

The OFSTED School Inspection Handbook, November 2019 No. 190017, page 59 & 60, states:

Inspectors will evaluate the effectiveness of the school's provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. This is a broad concept that can be seen across the school's activities but draws together many of the areas covered by the personal development judgement.

Provision for the spiritual development of pupils includes developing 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.

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, Great Waltham 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.

Great Waltham 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

Aims

School's Name

Great Waltham C of E Primary School

School's Christian Vision:

Our Christian vision is underpinned by Jesus' example of love for all and is summarised in 1Corinthians 16:14.

'Let all that you do be done in love.'

WE ASPIRE for all our children to be confident, happy and caring individuals, to love as Jesus shows us and to develop a love of learning, living responsibly in God's world.

Our Christian vision, influenced by Jesus' love for all, as expressed in 1 Corinthians 16:14, shapes our ethos and drives spirituality within the school community. In promoting doing everything in love, alongside our values of aspiration, strength, perseverance, integrity, respect and empathy, we have a vision cultivates a sense of spirituality a that nurtures confidence, happiness, and compassion amongst our school family.

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 wonderful school grounds with a reflection and forest school area provide ample opportunities for the children to develop spiritually.

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 Great Waltham 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 and are introduced to different musical traditions.

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 Great Waltham C of E Primary School is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

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 Great Waltham C of E Primary School Religious Education Policy and The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement*.

Spirituality within the Curriculum

Our school's curriculum design is guided by our Christian vision, closely aligned with Jesus' love for all, as outlined in 1 Corinthians 16:14. Inspired by the biblical story of the Good Samaritan, our curriculum fosters spiritual growth in pupils by promoting our love, the ASPIRE values and a real sense of community.

Drawing on the language of **wows**, **ows** and **nows**, conversations around spirituality will be included in classroom teaching when appropriate from Reception to Year 6.

Maths

Points to consider:

- The wonder of number patterns
- What cannot be measured? For example, love
- What cannot be accurately counted? For example, the difference an act of kindness makes.

Reading

Points to consider:

- How do you frame questions around a text? For example
- What inspired you in this text?
- How did a character cope with a challenge in life?

- How did the actions of a character surprise you? How do you think you would have responded to that **wow** or **ow** moment? ○ What do you think makes these words so powerful/beautiful/painful?

Writing

Points to consider:

- If pupils are invited to write about things that have profound meaning to them, how is this writing valued? How can it be recognised as having value, rather than simply be reduced to an evaluation of SPAG?

DT

Points to consider:

- What motivates designers and their decisions? For example, is it a desire to make money or a desire to help and make improvements to daily life for everyone?

Music

Points to consider:

- What style of music 'invites you to explore the mystery that dances within your soul'
- What styles of music have the opposite effect?
- How does music encourage creativity, delight, and curiosity?

MFL

Points to consider:

- What motivates language learning? For example, buying an ice cream on holiday or welcoming and comforting a stranger in our country?
- What does it feel like to genuinely communicate with someone in a new language?

Geography

Points to consider:

- The **wow** of physical geography.
- The **ow** of discovering different physical regions do not provide the same opportunities.
- What options/opportunities are there to respond and take responsibility in a challenging world?

History

Points to consider:

- Which stories tell historical **wows**?
- Which stories tell historical **ows**?
- What lessons for future decisions and choices do they provide?

PE

Points to consider:

- How do you celebrate a new skill? How does it feel to be proud of your whole self?
- What does it feel like to be completely focused on a task or challenge?
- How do you recognise the delight in movement, connectedness, and creativity?
- Encourage the awareness of one's own strength and limitations.
- Recognise/celebrate equality, freedom, respect and trust.

Science

Points to consider:

- Delight in discovering how things work.
- Opportunities to linger longer on the wonder!
- What questions cannot be answered by science?

Art

Points to consider:

- How does art invite you to explore the mystery that dances within your soul?
- What are the **wows** and **ows** in the stories behind the artists you study?
- How do you celebrate and respect different responses to art?

PSHCE & RSE

Points to consider:

- As you explore topics such as relationships, feelings & attitudes, keeping safe and 'your body' where are the natural links with the **wows**, **ows** and **nows**?
- How can the honesty and sensitivity needed to explore these topics gently reflect the language of spirituality already used throughout the school?

All Subjects

Points to consider:

- How do you celebrate the achievement and break-through **wows** of success?
- How do you support the **ows** of difficulty and frustrations?
- How do you maximise the everyday moment of concentration and being in the present, creating a sense of calm and completeness?

Spirituality within the Ethos of the Daily Life of the School

In Great Waltham C of E Primary, 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 MDAs 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**.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The School council and collective worship committee will review the policy every three years in partnership with Senior/ Middle Leaders 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.

Justine Brooks and Diane Elmes are 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

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. NQTs and staff who are new to Great Waltham C of E School will receive training and support from the staff member identified as leading on spirituality.

Prayer used by the School:

Dear God,

Thank you for this day, our school and our church.

Please help us to work as part of a team by respecting other people's differences.

Give us the courage to offer our help and friendship to others.

Help us to learn together and have fun.

Thank you for making our school a safe and special place.

Amen

Spirituality Conversation Starters

Learning from OW Experiences

What I've learnt from this difficult OW experience...

What I've learnt about forgiveness is....

What I've learnt about truth is....

Lying is wrong because...

No one is perfect because...

There would be less trouble if....

Learning from WOW Experiences

What I've learnt from this wonderful WOW experience...

I think this is amazing because....

The biggest day in my life was....

A person who I think is really good is.....

Learning from NOW Experiences

What I've learnt from this NOW experience...

What I've learnt about love is.....

The world would be a better place if

I can find peace by...

One thing I wonder about God is....

I felt God was near me when.....