



Witchampton Church of England First School

Spiritual Development Policy

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Biblical Vision:

*"Live a life of love, just as Jesus loved us."
(Ephesians 5:2)*

1. Introduction

At Witchampton Church of England First School, we are proud to be a small, nurturing school at the heart of our community. Our vision — *"Small school, Loving hearts, Rooted in the community"* — reflects our commitment to knowing every child as an individual, valuing them deeply, and supporting them to grow in faith, confidence, and love.

As a Church school, we believe that spirituality is central to each child's journey. Our vision is rooted in *Ephesians 5:2*, which calls us to *"live a life of love, just as Jesus loved us."* This love shapes the relationships, learning, and values that underpin all that we do.

We seek to provide a caring environment where every child can flourish — academically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually — developing the understanding, compassion, and courage to make a positive difference in the world.

2. Theological Foundation

Our understanding of spirituality is grounded in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. He demonstrated that love for God and love for others are at the heart of human flourishing.

At Witchampton, spirituality is about exploring the love and presence of God in our lives, recognising our connection to one another, and finding meaning and purpose in the world. Every person is made in the image of God, uniquely valued and worthy of love. Spiritual growth allows children to understand this truth and reflect God's love in their own lives.

3. Definition of Spirituality

At Witchampton, we describe spirituality as:

“A growing awareness of God, ourselves, others, and the world — rooted in love and expressed through curiosity, wonder, reflection, and compassion.”

Spiritual development enables children to:

- Recognise God’s love in their own lives and in the lives of others;
- Reflect on experiences, values, and beliefs;
- Develop empathy, compassion, and respect for others;
- Explore life’s big questions and the search for meaning;
- Experience awe and wonder in the world around them.

4. Aims and Objectives

Our aim is to nurture every child’s spiritual development within a loving, inclusive Christian community. We will:

1. **Recognise Uniqueness** – Help children appreciate their worth and identity as children made in the image of God.
2. **Understand Faith** – Develop understanding of the distinctive ethos of our Church school and the Christian beliefs that underpin it.
3. **Live Our Vision** – Embed our school vision, *“Small school, Loving hearts, Rooted in the community,”* in all that we do.
4. **Apply Core Values** – Encourage children to live a life of love, following Jesus’ example of compassion, forgiveness, and service.
5. **Respect and Inclusion** – Develop respect for other people’s beliefs, traditions, and faiths while supporting children to articulate their own.
6. **Community and Belonging** – Foster a strong sense of belonging within the school, local parish, and wider community.
7. **Mental Health and Wellbeing** – Promote good mental health and wellbeing through reflection, gratitude, and a sense of purpose.

8. **Curiosity and Creativity** – Inspire curiosity, imagination, and creativity as expressions of spiritual growth.
9. **Growth Through Challenge** – Encourage reflection, resilience, and hope when facing difficulties or disappointment.
10. **Celebrating Diversity** – Value and celebrate difference as part of God’s diverse and beautiful creation.
11. **Awe and Wonder** – Provide opportunities to experience beauty and wonder through nature, art, music, and creativity.
12. **Care for Creation** – Nurture responsibility for caring for the natural world as God’s gift to us all.

5. Implementation Through Teaching and Learning

Spiritual development is at the heart of all aspects of school life and learning. We ensure that:

- The **Christian vision and values** guide the curriculum, worship, and relationships across the school.
- **Planned and spontaneous opportunities** for spiritual reflection are recognised, encouraged, and celebrated.
- **Collective Worship** provides time for prayer, reflection, and response to God’s love.
- **Religious Education (RE)** supports understanding of Christianity and other world faiths, encouraging children to explore different spiritual perspectives.
- **Creative arts, storytelling, and outdoor learning** are used to nurture empathy, imagination, and wonder.
- **Spaces for reflection**—indoors and outdoors—allow stillness, prayer, and contemplation.
- **Spiritual reflection** is encouraged through discussion, journaling, and creative expression.
- **Everyday experiences** are recognised as opportunities for spiritual growth.
- **Positive mental health and wellbeing** are supported through love, belonging, and reflection.

6. Approaches to Spiritual Development

7. The Four Aspects of Spirituality

We understand spirituality through four interconnected relationships — all bound together by **love, courage and inspiration**:

Aspect	Focus	Spiritual Learning Intent
Self	Awareness of personal identity and value	Understanding that I am unique, valued, and loved by God.
Others	Relationships and community	Learning to show compassion, forgiveness, and love towards others.
World	Appreciation of creation and creativity	Experiencing awe and wonder in God's creation and caring for the world.
Beyond	The transcendent and divine	Exploring big questions about life, faith, and God's love and presence.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

Spiritual development cannot be measured in a fixed way, but it can be recognised and celebrated. Provision and impact are monitored through:

- Lesson observations and discussions;
- Listening to children's reflections and capturing pupil voice;
- Reviewing RE, Worship, and reflection journals;
- Inclusion within the school's self-evaluation and SIAMS documentation;
- Feedback from pupils, staff, parents, and governors;
- Staff induction and training to ensure a shared understanding of spirituality;

- Sharing best practice across the Wimborne Academy Trust and the Diocese of Salisbury.

9. Spirituality, Mental Health, and Wellbeing

Spirituality and wellbeing are closely linked. Spiritual reflection and connection can bring comfort, peace, and hope — especially during times of challenge.

At Witchampton, all children are given inclusive opportunities to explore spirituality, whatever their faith background. We encourage them to find meaning, joy, and belonging, and to draw strength from the example of Jesus' love. This helps them to develop resilience, self-worth, and a sense of hope for the future.

10. Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if necessary, to ensure that it continues to reflect the school's Christian vision, the SIAMS inspection framework, and current educational guidance.

Next Review Date: October 2026