Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust

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Spirituality Policy

North Leigh CE Primary School

Valuing Everyone in our school, in our community, in our world.

This policy was reviewed in September 2026.

The policy must be reviewed and updated at least every 24 months.

All children are provided with equal access to the curriculum. We aim to provide suitable learning opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity or home background.

The impact of this policy on staff workload has been considered.

Signed *Ben McPherson* Headteacher *Sophie Warner* Chair of Governors

Date *28 September 2026*

Spirituality Policy

Rationale

Spirituality is a powerful force that determines what we are and our self-understanding. It forms the basis for successful relationships and shapes our behaviour and outlook on life, others and the world.

At North Leigh CE Primary School, our school definition of Spirituality is: 'Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking questions, inspiration and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of ourselves.'

Spiritual development relates to that aspect of inner life through which we acquire insight into our personal experiences, which are of enduring worth.

At North Leigh CE Primary School, the spiritual dimension is expressed through our School Christian values – love, respect, perseverance and flourishing community.

Our theologically rooted Christian vision enables and encourages all children to flourish spiritually through valuing everyone in our school, in our community and in the world.

It is our aim that the children's individual spiritual development is fostered as an integral element of the range of learning opportunities, curriculum and experiences they encounter and permeates all aspects of school life.

Aims

The aims for spirituality at North Leigh CE Primary School are:

- To provide a context of faith, security and loving relationships to support each child's spiritual search;
- To foster the spiritual development of each child, regardless of age, sex, ability or cultural background;
- To foster self-awareness and promote a feeling of self-worth;
- To develop a set of values, principles and beliefs;
- To develop positive human qualities;
- To develop respect and empathy for other people and their beliefs;
- To foster a respect for different people's feelings and values;
- To develop children's enthusiasm to explore and learn through enquiry and first hand experiences;
- To enable the children to attribute meaning to experiences;
- To enable the children to value the non-material dimension of life;
- To foster reflection and stillness;
- To foster a sense of meaning, purpose and direction in life;
- To encourage imagination and creativity;
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder at the miracle of creation, life and the natural world;
- To enable the children to experience a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible;
- To share Christian stories and respond to Christian festivals.
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Organisation and Implementation

Spiritual development is an important element of a child's education and fundamental to all other areas of learning.

Without curiosity, without the inclination to question and without the exercise of imagination, insight and intuition, children would lack the motivation to learn. In view of this we:

- Value children's questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns;
- Enable children to make connections between aspects of their learning;
- Encourage children to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference, e.g. asking 'why?', 'how?', and 'where?' as well as 'what?'.

Spirituality is not taught, but is an inherent interwoven part of all aspects of school life and is nurtured and promoted as a natural element of the curriculum.

The following opportunities will be made available, as an integral part of the school's practice, in order to facilitate the development of spirituality:

- To explore values and beliefs, including religious and non-religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives;
- Where children already have religious beliefs, to support and develop these beliefs in ways which are personal and relevant to them as an integral part of the school's practice. We recognise the importance and value of recognising, discussing and learning from all beliefs held within our school;
- To engage in enquiry and exploration as part of experiential, first hand learning;
- To look attentively and observe carefully;
- To be creative and imaginative;
- To listen with discernment;
- To reflect and respond to issues in moments of quiet or inspired through music, art, text, film or artefacts;
- To explore and develop what animates themselves and others;
- To understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful;
- To value what is good and worthwhile and to make valuable judgements through discussion and exchange of views;
- To work collaboratively with peers, valuing the contribution made by others;
- To respect all, as modelled by staff in their relationships with others;
- To experience silent, calm and tranquil moments which afford time for reflection through stilling;
- To work and live in harmony with others in the school and wider community;
- To have confidence to express ideas, views and opinions, even if others do not agree.

Opportunities for spiritual development are encouraged in all aspects of the curriculum and school life. As the children become actively engaged in the curriculum, a wide range of experiential learning opportunities enable them to question, consider, reflect and respond as well as consider their own and others values, beliefs and feelings.

Outlined below are some of the key ways in which spiritual development is nurtured and promoted as part of the curriculum at North Leigh CE Primary School:

In Physical Education:

- Being a team member;
- Extremes of skill, endurance and achievement;
- Emotion in sport;
- Personal limitation and failure;
- Appreciation of perfection;
- Sportsmanship.

In Design and Technology:

- Discovering how something works;
- Appreciating genius;
- Beauty in design;
- Perseverance to solve problems;
- Personal achievement;
- Learning from others and nature.

In English:

- Empathy with authors and the characters in stories and plays;
- The appreciation of beauty in language;
- Emotions and sentiments in writing and speech;
- The values of great works;
- Heroes and heroines in literature;
- Imagining oneself as someone else;
- Escaping into other worlds through literature;
- The element of wonder in literature.

In Maths:

- Infinity and nothing;
- Pattern and order;
- Shape and regularity;
- Truth, certainty and likelihood;
- The wonder of numbers, formulae and equations;
- The universality of mathematics over time and space.

In Science:

- Wonder as the basis of science;
- Questions of beginning, creation and evolution;
- Discovering the limits of experimentation;
- Birth, life, death and renewal;
- The universe and beyond;
- Regularity and order in science;

- Beliefs in science and the faith of scientists;
- The impact of scientific achievements.

In Computing:

- The wonder of worldwide instant communication;
- The speed of the growth of knowledge;
- The accessibility of knowledge and contact with other people worldwide;

In the Creative Arts (Art, Music, Drama and Dance):

- The work of creative artists from a variety of times and places;
- Beauty, truth and goodness;
- Expressing, interpreting and exploring deep feelings and profound beliefs;
- Artistic creativity;
- The effects of the arts on emotions and senses;
- The arts as means of expressing mood;
- Skill in creation and performance, and particularly in personal reflection upon their own creativity using various art forms;
- Effects on the emotions and senses;
- Personal response and preference;
- Mood;
- Skill;
- Pattern;
- Formulae.

In Geography:

- Wonder at the diversity of environments and people;
- Questions about the care of the environment;
- The beliefs behind particular causes and campaigns;
- World (economic) development;
- Land formation;
- Empathy with people from other parts of the world.

In History:

- Being in touch with past people, things and ideas;
- Being part of history;
- Handling artefacts;
- Influential events and people;
- The commitment of significant people in history;
- War and peace;
- Interpretation in history;
- The nature and importance of invention and exploration;
- Empathy with people from other times in history.

In Religious Education:

- People, places, things, books, actions and ideas held by religious believers to be holy;
- Ultimate questions of meaning and purpose;
- Ideas of the divine/questions of God;
- Forms of worship;
- Use of music, art and drama to express beliefs;
- Varieties of beliefs, celebrations and rituals;
- Ideas of commitment and belonging to groups and institutions;
- The idea of mystery and questions with no clear answers.

In Collective Worship:

- Opportunities for reflection and response are planned into worship;
- Stillness;
- Personal and collective beliefs are respected;
- Sharing and celebrating common beliefs;
- Celebrating success;
- Sharing happiness, sorrow, hurt, excitement, anticipation, fear, etc;
- Common activities such as singing, listening, laughing, praying, reflecting on a theme;
- Remembering and celebrating the lives of people of spiritual significance;
- Emphasising common purpose and values;
- Experiencing emotions.

In addition, as part of the curriculum, the children have opportunities:

- To visit places of beauty, interest and challenge;
- To admire and wonder at the natural environment and human creative efforts;
- To work out personal relationships in unusual and challenging situations;
- To experience community cohesion links at a local, national and global level;
- To engage in charity based activities;
- To participate in a wide range of events and activities, involving a range of outside agencies, coaches, etc.

In order to facilitate spiritual development, the organisation of the school and the environment for learning are such that:

- Everyone involved in the life of the school is valued and seen to be valued;
- Policies and ensuing practices are clearly seen to reflect the worth of individuals;
- Behaviour and people management policies and practices are collectively arrived at and discussed regularly;
- All adults recognise the need to set good examples of mutual respect and considerate behaviour;
- The quality and nature of the learning environment and displays reflect the value placed on pupils and staff;
- Aesthetic awareness is encouraged;
- The atmosphere of the school welcomes differences in beliefs and values, and invites everyone to belong;
- The achievements, successes and efforts of everyone are recognised and celebrated.

Assessment

Spirituality will be assessed as an integral part of curriculum practice and the children's involvement in the life of the school community.

These are areas in which children are expected to grow as part of their spiritual development:

- Reflect on their experiences with increasing sensitivity;
- Question and explore the meaning of experience;
- Understand and evaluate a range of possible reasons and interpretations;
- Develop personal views and insights;
- Apply insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to their own lives in line with the school's Church of England status and history and with any personal experiences of their own beliefs;
- Know that belief is valuable, including any religious beliefs and on-religious world views held by them and their families.

Monitoring and Review

Provision for spiritual development is monitored and reviewed by:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by RE/Collective Worship Leader, Senior Leaders, Headteacher and Governors;
- Governor visits;
- Pupil conferences;
- A spirituality walk;
- Discussions at staff and Governing Body meetings.;
- Audits of policies and schemes of work;
- RE and Collective Worship action plans.