



# St Cleopas CE Primary Academy

## Spirituality Policy

Our School Vision is inspired by this bible verse: John 13:34

***"As I have loved you, so you must love one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples".***

St Cleopas is an inclusive community that nurtures and develops opportunities for lifelong learning on our journey walking alongside Jesus, opening our eyes and hearts to all.

Our School Values: At St Cleopas, we aim to develop all pupils so that they achieve and succeed. This happens in a caring, welcoming and loving environment based firmly on our Christian values.

## Our School Vision and Values:

At St Cleopas, our strong Christian vision and values influence the ethos of our school and the policies and practices within it. We believe that spirituality is a core thread that runs through our school and we attach great importance to it for both children's development and for the growth and well-being of all within our school community.

### Policy Statement

As a Church of England primary school, we are committed to nurturing the spiritual development of all pupils and adults. Spirituality is not confined to religious belief but is a shared human capacity that enables individuals to reflect, wonder, connect, and grow. Through intentional opportunities for spiritual development, we aim to support all members of our community to flourish as unique individuals, created and loved by God.

This policy reflects the expectations of the **Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)** by demonstrating how spirituality is deeply embedded in the school's Christian vision and lived out in practice.

### Understanding Spirituality

At our school, spirituality is understood as:

- The way we reflect on ourselves, others, the world and God
- The capacity to experience awe, wonder and mystery
- The development of meaning, purpose and hope
- The ability to build loving, respectful relationships

We recognise that spirituality can be expressed through faith, but also through creativity, relationships, emotions, nature, and reflection.

To support a shared understanding of spirituality across the school community, we use the **Windows, Mirrors, Doors and Candle** model. This model provides a clear and accessible framework for planning, teaching and reflecting on spiritual development, in line with SIAMS expectations. This format helps pupils recognise moments of wonder, reflect deeply and respond with love and action.



Through this model, spirituality is not only explored but lived out, enabling pupils to flourish as compassionate, reflective and active members of society.

### **Windows: Encountering the world and God**

Windows provide opportunities for pupils to experience awe, wonder and curiosity. Through stories, nature, worship, music, art and moments of stillness, pupils are invited to look beyond themselves and engage with big questions about life, faith and the world. These moments encourage openness, imagination and a sense of mystery, helping pupils recognise the beauty and complexity of the world around them and consider God's presence within it.

### **Mirrors: Reflecting on self**

Mirrors allow pupils to reflect on their own thoughts, feelings, beliefs and experiences. Children are encouraged to consider what matters to them, how they respond to others and how their actions reflect love and compassion. This reflective process supports emotional literacy, self-awareness and personal growth, enabling pupils to understand themselves as unique individuals who are valued and loved.

### **Doors: Responding through action**

Doors represent opportunities for pupils to respond to what they have seen and reflected upon. Inspired by Jesus' command to love one another, pupils are encouraged to take action through kindness, service, forgiveness and advocacy. These responses may be small daily acts or larger opportunities to serve the wider community, helping pupils understand that spirituality leads to positive choices and positive change.

### **Candle: Recognising God's light**

The candle represents the light of God present in the world and in each person. Lighting a candle during times of worship or reflection creates a calm space for prayer, stillness and spiritual awareness. It reminds pupils that they are uniquely created and deeply loved by God. As the candle shines, pupils are encouraged to recognise the light within themselves and others, sharing kindness, hope and compassion so that their light shines in the world.

Through these experiences, we aim to nurture a school community where spirituality is lived out in everyday life, enabling all pupils and adults to flourish and grow in faith, hope and love

## Spirituality and Human Flourishing

Flourishing is at the heart of our Christian vision. Inspired by Jesus' command to love one another, we seek to create a community where every individual is valued, known and supported.

We believe flourishing involves:

- Feeling safe, loved and respected
- Developing resilience, confidence and hope
- Having a sense of purpose and belonging
- Being encouraged to serve others with compassion

By nurturing spirituality, we enable children and adults to grow emotionally, socially and spiritually, equipping them to live life in all its fullness.

## Promoting Spirituality in School Life

Spirituality is promoted intentionally across all areas of school life:

- **Collective Worship** is central to the life of the school and provides regular opportunities for spiritual reflection, prayer and response. Worship reflects our Christian vision and encourages pupils to explore themes of love, forgiveness, justice and service.
- **Curriculum**-Spiritual development is woven throughout the curriculum. Teachers plan for moments of reflection, questioning and awe, enabling pupils to engage with big ideas and explore meaning and values. Religious Education plays a key role in helping pupils understand Christian belief while respecting and learning from other worldviews.
- **Godly Play**-Offers a different way of being with children that can help nurture their spirituality in all aspects of school life. Godly play values process rather than product, open questioning and space for discovery, meaning-making and self-directed activity.
- **Relationships and Behaviour**- Our approach to behaviour and relationships is grounded in our vision of love. Pupils are encouraged to treat others with kindness, empathy and respect, reflecting Jesus' example of sacrificial love.
- **Environment**- We create calm, reflective spaces both indoors and outdoors where pupils can pause, reflect and be still. Displays and learning environments reflect our Christian values and celebrate spiritual growth.

## Inclusion and Diversity

We affirm the dignity and worth of every individual. Spirituality in our school is inclusive and invitational, offering opportunities for all to engage, regardless of faith background or belief. Pupils are encouraged to express their own views and beliefs while respecting those of others.

## **Leadership and Responsibility**

All staff share responsibility for nurturing spirituality. School leaders ensure that spirituality is prioritised, monitored and developed in line with the school's vision and SIAMS expectations. Governors support and challenge the school in its commitment to spiritual development and flourishing.

## **Partnership with Parents and Carers**

We recognise that parents and carers play a vital role in the spiritual development of their children. Spirituality is nurtured most effectively when school and homework together in a spirit of trust, openness and mutual respect.

We seek to support parents by:

- Communicating our Christian vision and approach to spirituality clearly
- Sharing opportunities for reflection, worship and spiritual learning
- Valuing and respecting the diverse beliefs and experiences within our school community
- Encouraging conversations at home that support reflection, values and emotional wellbeing

Parents are invited to engage with school life through collective worship, celebrations, reflection activities and discussions about values. In doing so, we work together to ensure that every child is supported to flourish, grounded in loving relationships and a strong sense of belonging.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The impact of this policy is evaluated through:

- Pupil and staff voice
- Observations of collective worship and teaching
- Monitoring of curriculum planning
- Reflection on how the vision is lived out daily

This ensures that spirituality remains a lived, meaningful and transformative aspect of school life.

## **Conclusion**

Rooted in Jesus' command to love one another, our approach to spirituality seeks to ensure that everyone in our school community is enabled to flourish. Through reflection, relationships and purposeful action, we strive to live as disciples whose love is visible to all.

Policy to be reviewed September 2028

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