



# Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

## Spirituality in Our Curriculum

At Parochial we feel it is incredibly beneficial for children to develop their spirituality. We want both pupils and staff to have a relationship with themselves, the world around them, and with God (or, if not God, then something beyond ourselves). As a staff, we agreed that, for us, Spirituality is about connection – to ourselves, to others, to the world and to the beyond. We explore this idea in a protected time at the end of each day, which we call Time to Connect. However, we feel that the curriculum offers many opportunities to develop our spiritual selves. Some of the opportunities we have identified in our curriculum are listed below.

Subject Area	Opportunities to Develop Spirituality
English	<p><b>Reading</b></p> <p>At Whickham Parochial C of E Primary School, we inspire spiritual development in reading by encouraging our children to read diverse, thought-provoking texts which develop their ability to respectfully discuss, question and comprehend our world. In providing books to appeal to all interests and to reflect (and sometimes challenge) our values, we are broadening our children's perspectives of the world, their empathy and understanding of each other, and their ability to respect different views, faiths and cultures. We have a special wellbeing section in our library which we have developed to support pupils who are struggling and to help them make sense of challenging emotions. We give our children the opportunity to go on exciting journeys of discovery through literature which helps our children reflect upon their place in our world: spiritually, emotionally and socially. It gives children the opportunity to discuss human values, empathy, and ethical dilemmas which spark discussions about inner growth and relationships.</p> <p><b>Writing</b></p> <p>At Whickham Parochial C of E Primary School, our writing curriculum allows the children to develop their spirituality by seeking a connection to an abstract concepts in poetry, non-fiction or through stories. It also allows them to share their personal thoughts or empathise with others through writing, role play and debating. Writing allows the children to be creative and use their imagination and to appreciate the beauty of language in a range of texts.</p>
Maths	At Whickham Parochial C of E Primary School, we inspire spiritual development in maths by encouraging our children to seek connections with maths in the wider world, fostering a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty and order in the universe by considering pattern, order, symmetry and scale both man-made and in the natural world. By integrating spirituality into maths, we can nurture children to become individuals who are not only proficient in mathematical skills but also spiritually aware and connected. This approach prepares children to engage with the world thoughtfully and reflectively, appreciating the beauty and interconnectedness of the universe.
Science	At Parochial we strive to bring opportunities for spirituality and connections to children's learning through engaging experiences that go beyond the classroom. In science, we foster a sense of awe and wonder about the natural world, nurturing curiosity and critical thinking about complex questions, and developing empathy and a connection to the wider world through scientific exploration. We integrate spirituality by encouraging children to marvel at scientific phenomena, reflect on the interdependence of living things, and ponder profound questions beyond immediate answers, thus broadening their understanding of existence and their place within it.
Religion and Worldviews	At Parochial, we strive to bring opportunities for spirituality and connection to children's learning through engaging experiences that go beyond the classroom. In Religion and Worldviews, pupils will study different religious and philosophical traditions and explore



	questions of meaning, purpose and morality. They will experience wonder and joy through learning about and from stories, celebrations, rituals and different expressions of religion and worldviews. Pupils will have opportunities to explore fundamental questions about meaning, purpose, and values, reflecting on their own experiences and the beliefs of others to develop their personal worldviews. Through activities like drama, art, discussion, and exploring nature, pupils' spiritual development will be fostered by encouraging awe, wonder, personal reflection, and respectful dialogue about the big questions of life.
Computing	At Parochial, we are committed to enriching children's learning by integrating opportunities for spirituality and connection through engaging, meaningful experiences beyond the classroom. In computing, spirituality is woven into the curriculum by encouraging creativity, problem-solving, investigative thinking, and ethical awareness. The subject fosters spiritual growth through the exploration and creation of digital media that reflect themes such as belief systems, social justice, and environmental stewardship. For example, pupils use computing tools to produce digital art and music that express their worldview. Online safety units help develop ethical understanding by teaching children about the impact of digital interactions and the importance of safeguarding their own and others' wellbeing. Computing also inspires a sense of wonder as pupils explore the influence of the digital age, gaining insight into both its possibilities and limitations. Coding units further promote awe and creativity, nurturing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Additionally, using technology to support spiritual practices enables children to deepen their spiritual awareness and build meaningful connections with themselves and others.
Art and Design	We grow spiritually together in admiring art with awe and wonder, whether this was created by the children themselves, their peers or an external artist that we have studied. The children are encouraged to approach art work with an open and curious mind. You will often find pupils and teachers alike connecting with each other in our lessons, perhaps listening to music and feeling calm, present or spiritual.
Design and Technology	Spirituality can be discovered through Design and Technology (DT) as our pupils engage in hands-on, creative projects that encourage a connection between their inner selves and the tangible world. DT provides a unique avenue for our learners to express their spirituality by designing and constructing objects that hold personal meaning or significance. Through the process of crafting, prototyping, and problem-solving, our pupils not only develop practical skills, but also gain a deeper understanding of their own creative capabilities and the interconnectedness of their creations with their beliefs and values. Teachers often encourage reflection on the purpose and impact of the designed artefacts, fostering a sense of mindfulness and purpose in the creative process, in addition to empathy for the intended user. In this way, Design and Technology becomes a platform for our pupils to explore and express their spiritual dimensions through the act of creation.
History	Spirituality is woven into the teaching of history as our children embark on a journey through the rich tapestry of human experiences. History lessons provide a platform for exploring diverse cultures, traditions, and belief systems, enabling our children to develop an understanding of the spiritual dimensions that have shaped societies throughout time. Through the study of historical figures, events, and civilizations, our children may reflect on the moral and ethical aspects of human behaviour, fostering a sense of empathy and interconnectedness with the past. Our history curriculum is a gateway for our children to ponder their own spiritual identities and values. By connecting with the stories of people from different periods, our children cultivate a broader perspective on spirituality and develop a sense of fellowship for both people in the past, and the people making history around them.
Geography	Spirituality is subtly intertwined with geography as our children explore the diverse landscapes, cultures, and connections that shape the world. Geography lessons offer a unique lens through which our children can appreciate the beauty and complexity of the Earth, fostering a sense of wonder and reverence for the natural world. Through the study



	<p>of different regions, ecosystems, and human environment interactions, our children may develop an understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things, promoting a sense of responsibility and preservation. Additionally, geography provides a platform to explore the cultural and religious practices that are deeply rooted in specific geographical contexts, allowing our children to appreciate the diversity of spiritual beliefs across the globe.</p>
Music	<p>At Parochial, we strive to bring opportunities for spirituality and connection to children's learning through engaging experiences that go beyond the classroom. In Music, we take opportunities to explore the emotional and spiritual dimensions of music, encouraging deep reflection and a sense of connection to something greater than themselves. Pupils are able to foster self-awareness and emotional intelligence through exposure to music. Instrumental tuition allows our children to experience the joy of mastering an instrument and building confidence and a sense of accomplishment. Allowing children to compose their own music, encourages self-expression and creativity, helping them to connect with their inner selves and articulate their feelings. Group work provides numerous opportunities for collaborations and shared experiences such as singing in the school choir and singing worship. This encourages children to value each other's ideas and contributions and foster a sense of community and mutual respect. The opportunity to explore world music through lessons allows students to appreciate the rich variety of musical expressions from different cultures.</p>
Modern Foreign Languages (French)	<p>MFL supports spiritual development by teaching pupils to accept and embrace other languages and cultures. Pupils are encouraged to be empathetic to the cultures, beliefs and traditions of others and stereotypes are challenged where necessary. This gives them the opportunity to consider 'identity' and what it means to them and others. Children explore emotions through language, reflect on different uses of language and they are often given the opportunity to use their imagination and creativity in groups and pair work. MFL promotes self-esteem by developing pupils' confidence; pupils are encouraged to: try new things including performing in front of their peers which promotes appreciation and support.</p>
Relationship and Health Education (RHE)	<p>At Parochial, we strive to bring opportunities for spirituality and connection to children's learning through engaging experiences that go beyond the classroom. Spirituality within our RSHE curriculum focuses on developing children's inner life, including self-awareness, a sense of purpose, respect for others, and an appreciation for beauty and connection. This is fostered through activities that encourage self-reflection, exploring big questions about life, developing empathy and relationships, and appreciating diverse cultures and beliefs. Through the topic strands taught children will be provided with opportunities for spirituality, topics such as Me and my relationships, rights and responsibilities, being my best, valuing differences, and keeping myself safe allows pupils them to understand service, care, fellowship and empathy.</p>
Physical Education (PE)	<p>Spirituality is developed through Physical Education (PE) as our children engage in activities that promote well-being and a connection between mind and body. PE provides a space for our children to explore their physical capabilities, fostering an appreciation for the harmony between the body, mind, and spirit. Through exercises, sports, and mindful activities, students can experience a sense of presence, discipline, and teamwork, contributing to their spiritual development. The emphasis on health, resilience, and self-awareness in PE encourages students to recognise the importance of balance and self-care, aligning with spiritual principles. The joy of movement, the camaraderie in team sports, and the cultivation of values such as respect and sportsmanship all contribute to a holistic approach to spirituality in PE, enriching our children's understanding of the connection between physical and spiritual well-being.</p>