



Heartwood CE VC Primary and Nursery School

Spiritual Development Policy

Date: May 2025

Review Date: May 2026

Spirituality Policy

Our Vision

As a Church of England school, **Heartwood CE VC Primary and Nursery School recognises that spiritual development plays a significant role in a pupil's ability to learn, achieve and flourish.**

Our school motto: *Learn to Love – Love to Learn!*

Biblical foundation: *“Live life in all its fullness” (John 10:10)*

Our vision is based on Jesus' two greatest commandments: to love God and to love one another. The parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) guides our school family to extend love, compassion, and respect to all God's people.

Heartwood's vision of *growing curious minds with a thirst for knowledge* influences the ethos of our school and shapes the policies and practices within it. We believe that spirituality is a core thread that runs through **the fabric of Heartwood**, and we attach great importance to it for both children's holistic development and for the well-being of all within our school community.

We aim for children and adults to grow in their ability to:

- **Be guided by their beliefs and values, and to grow inquisitive minds that question, challenge and respect others' points of view.**
- Be self-aware and empathise with the experiences of others in the school and wider community.
- Love themselves, care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve, and find inner strength **to develop resilient minds that persevere.**
- Exercise imagination and creativity, appreciate beauty in the world, and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder.
- Be intrigued by mystery and open to an awareness of the transcendent in all of life.
- Be comfortable with stillness and silence, and open to engage in reflection, meditation and prayer.
- Be ready to say sorry when mistakes are made, to forgive themselves, and to forgive others.
- Be willing to take risks and to reflect, learn and grow from experiences of both failure and success.
- Grow curious minds with a thirst for knowledge.
- Appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life, such as friends and family, and show generosity towards others.

(Adapted from David Smith's work on Spiritual Capacities)

Heartwood's Working Definition of Spirituality

As a staff and governing body, we have agreed on a definition of spiritual development to support us in our shared language and understanding:

Spiritual development is the development of an awareness that there is “something more to life than meets the eye, something more than the material, something more than the obvious – something to wonder at, something to respond to.” (Terence Copley)

Legal Requirements

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 states:

The curriculum for a maintained school or maintained nursery school satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which:

- (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- (b) prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Expectations from SIAMS and the Church of England

The **SIAMS Framework (amended September 2023)** references spirituality in several inspection questions:

- **IQ2:** How is spiritual development an intrinsic part of the curriculum?
- **IQ3:**
 - How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?
 - How do the theologically rooted Christian vision and the Anglican/Methodist foundation of the school shape worship and spirituality in the school?
 - In the context of the school as a Church school, what do pupils and adults understand to be the meaning of spirituality?
 - How does this enhance and enrich collective worship and individuals’ spiritual development?

The **Church of England Vision for Education** has a core desire for “*life in all its fullness*” (John 10:10), which requires educating the whole person.

The **Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) 2021** states that pupils’ spiritual development is demonstrated by 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.

How We Support Pupils’ Spiritual Development

We support pupils in their spiritual development by:

- Providing regular and meaningful opportunities for spiritual development in **daily collective worship**.
- Embedding spiritual development through high-quality RE.
- **Infusing opportunities for reflection and awe across the wider curriculum.**
- Capturing and celebrating spontaneous moments of awe and wonder.
- Providing 'Sacred Spaces' in school grounds and classrooms, including use of the church building and resources from the 'Prayer Spaces in Schools' website.
- Offering pupils opportunities to develop their own spiritual leadership, such as through planning and leading collective worship.

As a Staff Team

- We have a shared and evolving understanding of spiritual development.
- We foster a school culture that recognises and values spirituality in children and staff.
- We regularly reflect on spirituality in staff meetings and offer appropriate CPD.
- Our governors monitor our provision through the **Ethos Committee and spirituality learning walks**.
- Staff guidance is available to support planning and reflection.
- New staff are inducted in our school's vision and approach to spiritual development.
- We use models such as the **Windows, Mirrors, Doors and Candle** approach to support thinking.
- We actively use agreed language with pupils to nurture awareness of spirituality and well-being.
- We encourage each pupil to develop their spirituality within their own cultural context.
- We share outcomes of our spiritual development work with parents through newsletters, social media, displays, and the school website.
- We collaborate with our local church and the Norwich Diocese to strengthen spiritual life across our school community.

Our Commitment

Our continued awareness and reflection on spiritual development **enhances** the educational experience of all and contributes to the flourishing of the whole school community.

Related Policies

- **Collective Worship**
- **Relationships and Behaviour**
- **SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development)**

Referenced Reading

Church of England Education Office (CEEO). *Spiritual Development – Interpretations of Spiritual Development in the Classroom* (2019)

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/supporting-children/school-effectiveness/re-collective-worship-and-spirituality/spiritual-development/>