



Spirituality Policy

'With God all things are possible'



Spiritual development

Aims and objectives

Sir John Offley Primary School is a Church of England Voluntary Controlled School. We are supported by the Lichfield Diocese. Spirituality plays a central part in the life of our school. At Sir John Offley we live each day through our motto, 'With God all things are possible', providing firm foundations rooted in the Christian faith and the core Christian Values of Love, Aspiration and Forgiveness.

What is Spirituality?



Spirituality is a very personal experience. It differs from person to person, and often spirituality changes within people during their lifetime.





Spirituality is not the same as having a religion or faith; a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith. Spirituality involves the recognition of a feeling or sense or belief that there is something greater than ourselves, something more to being human than sensory experience.

Spiritual Development at Sir John Offley CE Primary School

"With God all things are possible" Matthew 19:26

At Sir John Offley we want all members of our school community to grow and flourish, in order to live life to the full. Spiritual development for us is a development of every aspect of a person. Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking big questions, developing relationships, inspiration and being aware of something 'bigger', outside of ourselves.

Spiritual development runs through everything we do and we encourage pupils and the wider school community to develop spirituality relating to:

Myself	Others	The Earth	The Divine
			

We realise that spiritual development is very personal to each individual, therefore we ensure we provide opportunities which enable our children to develop in their own way and in their own time.

The language of spirituality is not easy to understand, particularly for our younger pupils. Therefore, we talk about how we are special as individuals, our relationships with other people 'love and care', how to respect others and what we should value and appreciate in the world we live in. We thread this throughout our curriculum and when relevant we plan WOW experiences and discuss 'Big Questions' that help us to shape and develop our own beliefs.

How is Spirituality Nurtured at Sir John Offley?

Children's spiritual development is fostered through all aspects of our provision, by providing experiences that enrich our children's self. We want our children to feel love and care, experience awe and wonder and build resilience in the face of challenges.

Spirituality is nurtured through the golden thread of the relationships we build through our Christian values of love, forgiveness and aspiration, as well as the development of knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes.

We give children opportunities to:

- Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.
- Begin to develop their own system of beliefs which may or may not include religious beliefs.
- Experience a love of learning through rewarding their enthusiasm and by encouraging exploratory play and learning.

- Reflect upon the world around them and show a sense of awe and wonder towards aspects of the natural world or human achievement.
- Reflect on the situations of others through role play, stories and discussions.
- Explore a range of stories, music, art, drama and dance.
- Be involved in a broad range of first-hand experiences through our well-planned curriculum.

What does spirituality look like at Sir John Offley?

In the classroom:

- Reflection areas
- Inspiring reading areas
- Circle times
- Discussing 'Big Questions'
- Celebrating children's 'Wow Moments'

In worship:

- Reflection time
- Child led worship
- Prayers
- Meditation
- Celebrating achievements in and out of school.

Outside:

- Nurture / Reflection Gardens
- Caring for and respecting the environment
- Forest Schools area

In the community and wider world:

- Charitable giving
- Sponsoring a child
- Championing a cause
- Celebrating together

What is the Role of the School Community?

All members of the school community have a part to play in helping to nurture children's spiritual development.

School staff can do this through:

- Establishing and maintaining a partnership between pupils, parents and staff; recognising and respecting the faith background of the children and their families.
- Taking part in, and supporting, collective acts of worship.
- Being good role models in their conduct towards other members of the community.

- Promoting an attitude of care and respect for other people and for others' views.
- Nurturing consideration for and generosity towards others.
- Drawing on the experiences of pupils and their families during religious education lessons and beyond.
- Recognising and being constantly aware of the needs and backgrounds of each individual pupil.
- Being willing to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the faiths of others.
- Having a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education.

Pupils can do this through:

- Taking an active part in acts of collective worship.
- Participating in activities which promote the skills allowing them to explore and reflect upon different religious beliefs and practices.
- Conducting themselves towards others considerately, following the school's Christian Values.
- Respecting the views and beliefs of others.

Parents can help through:

- Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education.
- Supporting the school's Christian ethos and acts of community worship such as collective worship and church services.
- Respecting the views and beliefs of others.

We will review this Spirituality Policy every two years or earlier if necessary.

Policy Agreed by: _____ Chair of Governors

Head teacher: _____

Date: January 2023

Review Date: January 2025

Sir John Offley CE (VC) Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.