

St. Bartholomew's Church of England Academy



(Romans 12:4-5)

Spirituality Policy

Adopted by the Leadership team

September 2024

Approved by full Governing Body

February 2025

Signed by Chair of Governors

To be reviewed

September 2026



The Diocese of Coventry Multi Academy Trust recognises that there is not one single definition of spirituality; spirituality is an innate human capacity. Spiritual development is not about becoming more spiritual (in a measurable or expansive sense). It is about realising or becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. This is sometimes a slow and gradual process, at other times there might be significant stages of realisation, which are part of the ongoing 'developing' process. We recognise the power of intentionality, and our academies must set intentions for spiritual development that span curriculum, collective worship and physical spaces. As such, spiritual development is both intentional and open to the unplanned and spontaneous opportunities flourishing church schools provide as normative. The promotion of spiritual development is a requirement of all schools in England as part of their offering of a 'broad and balanced' curriculum. Church of England schools are recognising the need to work this out with integrity, recognising that whilst having a Christian foundation they are inclusive and diverse communities of children, staff and families. "Life in all its fullness" - John 10:10 'Becoming and realising...'

Our Spirituality Definition

Spirituality is something which is 'beyond words'. For some, it includes **belief** in something bigger than or beyond ourselves. It is an expression of how we as individuals connect/relate to others, nature and the extraordinary (beyond the usual). It is how we **belong** individually and in community in God's world.

Our spirituality makes us unique, shaping us through our experiences and wonderings. It is like an inner spark deep inside us, that inspires our choices, attitudes, and values. It is our inner strength that encourages us to know and **become** fully who we are.

Spirituality at St. Bartholomew's C of E Academy

At St. Bartholomew's C of E Academy, the curriculum provides many opportunities for children to develop spiritually and develop an understanding of their own world view, whilst developing an understanding of the views and impact that others have on the world. Our aim is to give opportunities across the curriculum that enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). Our genuine wish is that we want all children and adults in our community to flourish. One way to achieve this is to be mindful about opportunities to be spiritual, whether from a faith perspective or not. At St. Bartholomew's C of E Academy spirituality begins from a Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God, like pots made by a potter (Isaiah 64:8). Yet, in life things happen that impact on the physical 'pot' of life and create cracks that provide a glimpse of something 'beyond' the tangible. Christians would view this as an opportunity to relate to the Divine Creator God.

To help the school community to understand spirituality we use the analogy of 'The Golden Glue'. Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with golden joinery or glue, creates something that has been broken into something even more beautiful. Using this metaphor, the wows, ows and nows of life offer the possibility of cracks that are filled with gold and make the pot even more beautiful. The gold in the cracks reflect a little of the wonder of spirituality.

Wows Ows and Nows

At St. Bartholomew's the language of wows, ows and nows are used to explore relationships with ourselves, others, the wider natural world and beyond, and offering the invitation to relate to God.



Wow Moments are the awe and wonder moments. The times you want to breathe in and capture the feeling, holding onto it as long as you can which makes the pot expand and crack.



Ow moments are when something challenging happens and threatens the comfort of everyday. They can knock the breath out of you.



Now moments are the every day ordinary times; being present in the moment, being open and aware of everything going on around you. When a moment of stillness, a pause or a prayer creates a crack in the normal everyday. God is here for people all the time not just in emergencies.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

At St. Bartholomew's Collective Worship provides our school community with opportunities to share experiences, ideas, and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality is regularly and explicitly shared. The school community have the opportunity to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences shape us uniquely. It provides a sense of being present in now moments which are often linked to invitations to pray. Opportunities to reflect on the wows of life such as beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise with the ow moments of disappointment or pain. Pupils are given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark seasonal Christian festivals and celebrations in the calendars of other faiths. In this way pupils are offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually.

Spirituality in the Curriculum

Learning activities in Religion and Worldviews provide for the needs of all pupils, offering a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews, linking these to pupils' ideas of spirituality and the language of wows, ows and nows where appropriate. Drawing on the language of spirituality conversations around spirituality will be included in classroom teaching across the curriculum when appropriate.