

Capel St Mary CEVC Primary School

Spirituality Statement

All schools have a responsibility to develop spirituality in children. This is enshrined in both the Education Reform Act of 1988 and Education (Schools Act) in 1992.

The curriculum for a maintained school (must be) a balanced broad based curriculum which:

A, Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society;

B, Prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Education Reform Act 1988 – Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 1.

As a church school we are inspected under the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) framework which asks whether our school:

Enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually

What is spirituality?

While we are instructed to promote spirituality and see our community flourish spiritually, it is a difficult concept to define. Our staff have worked collaboratively to define what we mean by spirituality.

It is extraordinary and lifts you out of the day to day

Spirituality is leaving the door ajar to let in the moments big and small that have the power to shape us. It is being curious, open and reflective. It is understanding that spirituality doesn't take one form and may be different for everyone.

It is a special feeling. It is moments of awe and wonder that make you stop and reflect. It gives you the wow moments but also moments of calm. It is not something that you are told but instinctive and intrinsic.

It is an internal feeling connecting you to what is beyond and an understanding that you are part of something greater that brings you joy.

It is inclusive and not unique to any faith or religion

It is inclusive and experienced by everyone no matter what their faith, culture or understanding. All humans are curious and can experience wonder, love or concern in reaction to a range of things.

It does not have to be linked to a faith or religion. All children and adults can feel it in a school like ours.

Spirituality can be experienced individually or collectively and differs from person to person.

It evolves and develops throughout our lives.

It is more than a fuzzy feeling

Appreciating what is around you

Self-reflection

Being still

Being observant

It can be brought about by encounters with music, love or nature

It cannot always be put into words

How does our school help the community to develop spiritually and allow children and staff to spirituality flourish?

We provide opportunities both in Collective Worship and beyond to ensure we take time to engage in moments in class and across the school

Our main opportunity for developing spiritual development is in Collective Worship. Worship takes place in our Hall, our classrooms and sometimes in the school grounds as well as in St Mary's church. We ensure that there are opportunities to foster spiritual development through stillness, silence, music, word, images, video and deep questions. We plan for development by using Roots and Fruits and the resources provided by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

In addition to this we offer opportunities for spiritual development through:

- Regular opportunities for prayer, whether as a whole school community or as a class, or a personal moment of reflection in collective worship. This includes our termly Prayer Meeting lead by our Faith Councilors. Children can also choose to spend some time in prayer and reflection in our Reflective Garden.
- The children are provided with many opportunities for moments of awe and wonder both in the classroom and outside. The curriculum taught at Capel enables the children to experience learning in many different forms including creative approaches. This includes using the outside areas of the school to enhance the curriculum for example, drawing the natural world, using natural objects to represent elements of Ngara crosses.
- We regularly take part in creative arts include the Capel St Mary Scarecrow trail, St Elizabeth Hospice Big Hoot trail (an annual event to raise funds for St Elizabeth Hospice). Singing for the elderly at Christmas time, Snape Maltings musical events.
- Reflection areas in school allow for moments of quiet. These can be found in each Unit and provide the children with an area for quiet reflection. Each area contains books which are age appropriate and resources to support the children's understanding of the concept explored through collective worship. Within these reflective spaces are prayer trees which the children can add to at any time, these trees are also added to through our termly prayer meeting which is a whole school event led by our Faith Council.
- Thursday afternoons enable the children to explore and express their thoughts, opinions and feeling through Big Question sessions. The record of these sessions is available to the children in their classrooms to explore further is desired during reading and quiet times. These include looking at the Big Questions covered in the Emmanuel Project and others.
- A weekly Celebration Assembly is held in each Unit. Here the children's successes of the week are rewarded including Star and Dojo winners of the week, achievement cards are

given and celebrated. Throughout the week in collective worship children who have succeeded in accomplishing sporting, reading and other activities outside of school are celebrated.

- Children are regularly given opportunities to share and express their feelings. Thoughtful and empathetic relationships are developed between children and staff across the whole school. Children feel safe to respectfully communicate their thoughts and feelings. Children who require additional support in this area are provided sessions by our Senior Mental Health lead and well-being lead. Training is being undertaken to expand our capacity to support children in this way.
- The children across the school enjoy story time which enables us to explore a wide range of themes and circumstances which provide opportunities for thoughtful and insightful question and answer sessions.
- Within the Emanuel Project the children learn about other world religions, they have the opportunity to practice yoga in P.E and mindfulness through the use of Class Dojo and Go Noodle.
- Children are exposed to a wide range of music with classical and calming music being used to aid mindfulness and concentration at key moments throughout the school week.
- Available within the school is access to musical tuition. This is on both a one-to-one basis and as a group. The children enjoy individual piano and guitar lessons and group-based ukulele and Rock Steady Band sessions.

Spiritual Capacities include children's ability to:

- be guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand to defend them
- be self-aware and empathise with the experience of others in the school and wider community
- love themselves, care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve and find inner strength and resilience when facing challenges
- 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 the whole of life
- be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection / mediation / 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 following experiences of failure as well as success
- demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions
- appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life and show generosity towards others

Next steps –

Develop further our monthly prayer collective worship, develop the use of and reinvigorate the Reflective Garden. Develop activities for the Reflective Garden. To create links between the exploration of spirituality and well-being to support all children in the school.