

Spirituality at Ilsham C of E Academy

“To grow and flourish wherever you are planted.” – Jeremiah

What does our vision mean to us?

Our vision drives all that we do here at Ilsham C of E Academy. When we talk to the children about **flourishing**, we discuss how we can be the best version of ourselves wherever we are and how we can lean into our vision and values to support us whether times are positive or difficult: ***‘It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.’***

What Is Spirituality?

Spirituality is a personal experience for individual person. How we all develop spiritually will change as we grow as people and will be impacted on the experiences that we each have.

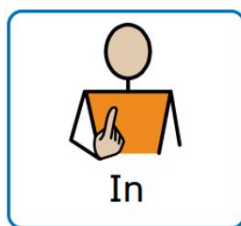
As a school and church community, we share the following definition of spirituality and what it means to us here:

We grow as people

We respect our world

We ask questions

We believe that this is a shared definition which will help us to understand ourselves, others, the world and the beyond. The following framework supports us to do this:



By using this framework, we are able to:

- **Look IN on ourselves and think about who we are and how we grow as people**
- **Look OUT at the world and other people who we share the world with**
- **Look UP to be able to ask bigger questions of meaning**

We aim to develop a sense of awe and wonder within the children and members of our school community, to also reflect on where we can find God in our lives and to be able to ask bigger questions about the nature of life, the natural world in which we live, science and areas of beauty and fascination.

We also develop spiritually through the actions of our values every day.

Our values are:

- Respect
- Compassion
- Honest
- Inspirational
- Courageous

Through our vision, we work together with the members of our church family to provide opportunities for our children **‘To grow and flourish wherever you are planted.’** Our values support this by reflecting on our

actions, how we are as people and how we can show that we are walking with God in our daily lives through our actions with others and the world around us.

How is Spirituality Nurtured?

Through our curriculum and opportunities provided for the children, we aim to nurture the spiritual development of all. We use the *Ricketts Progression for Spiritual Development 2015* to support 'Flourishing Time'. This is a dedicated time for children to explore questions relating to IN OUT UP and it provides an opportunity for children to consider questions and reflect.

Values and relationships are central to children flourishing. We give children opportunities to:

- Consider the worldviews of themselves and others, rooted in knowledge and critical thinking.
- To develop their own worldview which may or may not include religious beliefs.
- To experience and develop a love of learning.
- To reflect on our world, both the beauty and the challenges it faces.
- Reflect on their actions and the actions of others.
- To have the opportunity to pray and talk to God.
- To ask and respond to big questions.

How does our community play a part?

All members of the school community have a responsibility for helping to nurture children's spiritual development. We do this through the promotion of our values of Respect, Compassion, Honesty, Inspiration and Courage. These values underpin all interactions within the school community for all people. We respect each person as a unique individual and, through our curriculum, experiences and Collective Worship, we work to nurture ourselves and each other as special individuals to God.

We have a close working partnership with our local church, St. Matthias, and members of the church team support us to work towards our vision, to uphold our values and to grow as people, respect our world and ask questions.

Through our approach to spirituality, and in partnership with stakeholders, we aim for all children **"To grow and flourish wherever you are planted"** in order that they may be active global citizens who are able to have a sense of belonging and respect for the world and those around them and contribute positively to their world.