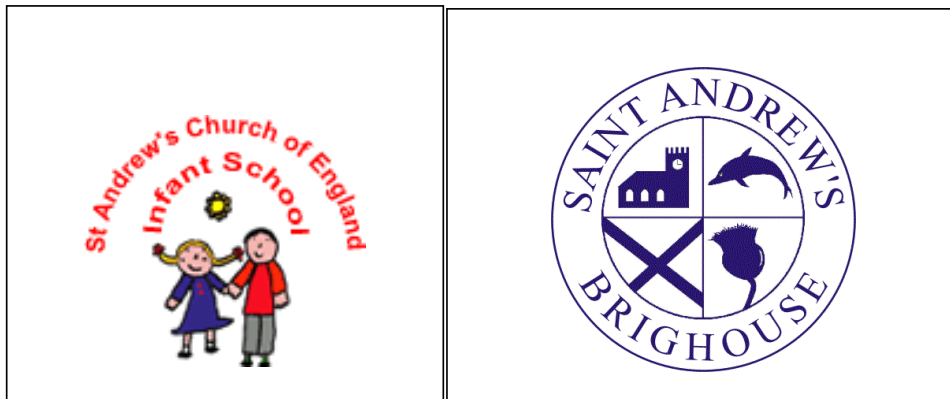


St Andrew's CE (VA) Infant and Junior Schools Spirituality Policy



SCHOOL VISION

Promoting excellence within a caring, Christian community

Confident – We embrace challenge and persevere

Aspire – We aim high

Respectful – We are friends and cherish God's world

Inclusive – We welcome everyone and are all of equal worth

Nurturing – We look after each other so we can all flourish

Generous – We give to each other and our community



"Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:1

Title	Spirituality Policy
Version	1.0
Date	March 2025
Author	St. Andrew's CE (VA) Junior School
Approved by headteacher	March 2025
Approved by governing body	April 2025
Next review date	March 2027

Purpose of the Policy

Scope

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, parents, and stakeholders within St Andrew's CE (VA) Infants and Junior School.

School Statement on Spirituality

To talk about spirituality is, essentially, to talk about something which is beyond words. To make conversations about spirituality more accessible to every member of our school community, St Andrew's Infant and Junior Schools have chosen to follow ideas developed by the Education Department at the Diocese of Gloucester. This language of 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. Cracks may be caused when something so good and breath-taking happens that the pot expands and cracks – the wows of life. Cracks may happen when something challenging happens and threatens the comfort of everyday – the ows of life. Cracks can also happen in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday – the nows of life, when a moment of stillness, a pause or prayer creates a crack in the normal, physical every day.

In these special moments there is a spiritual opportunity. 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.



St Andrew's uses this language and the concepts of wows, ows and nows. These are used to explore relationships with:

- ourselves
- others
- the wider natural world and beyond
- and offering the invitation to relate to God

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

- Ensure the policy aligns with the school's vision and values.
- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the policy.

School Leaders

- Lead the development and promotion of spirituality within the curriculum and school life.
- Ensure that staff receive appropriate training and resources to support spiritual development.

Teachers

- Integrate spirituality into lessons and school activities.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to explore their beliefs and values.

Pupils

- Engage actively in spiritual activities and reflections.
- Respect the diverse beliefs of their peers.

Parents and Community

- Support the school's spiritual initiatives and participate in events.
- Encourage discussions about spirituality at home.

Spirituality at St Andrew's

The Spirituality Policy at St Andrew's CE (VA) Infant and Junior School aims to foster an environment where pupils, staff, and the wider community can explore, reflect upon, and develop their spiritual beliefs and values. This policy aligns with the school vision of promoting excellence within a caring Christian community and supports our commitment to inclusivity, respect, and nurturing.

The spiritual growth of our pupils is not only dependent on learning in RE: opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners are developed in every aspect of our school life.

We have identified specific areas which contribute to the spiritual growth of pupils: collective worship, the whole curriculum, including RE and the general ethos of the school within daily life.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the beating heart of St Andrew's. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared. Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present (now moments) which are often linked to invitations to pray.

Through daily Collective Worship, pupils are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They are offered an understanding of worship by being invited to participate in, or observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible and liturgy and are introduced to different musical traditions.

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. Collective Worship at St Andrew's is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Spirituality in Religious Education

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school's approach to RE and spirituality. Learning activities in RE 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.

Spirituality within the Curriculum

St Andrew's approach spirituality through 'Big Questions'. These questions are designed to fit into our teaching topics, and allow the teacher to 'deepen the moment' by encouraging deep thinking around a subject.

Using the child-friendly language of wows, ows and nows, conversations around spirituality will be included in classroom teaching when appropriate. The 'Big Questions' are not planned for a specific lessons; they are used when the time is right to deepen thinking.

Further moments to appreciate 'wows' are taken when they arise, for example looking at a rainbow or marvelling at cloud formations.

'Ow' moments can be explored through characters in books, giving opportunities for discussions about how characters reacted and how children might have reacted in the situation.

Opportunities to reflect, pray or be mindful are provided throughout the day in order to create 'now' moments.

Spirituality within the Ethos of the Daily Life of the School

At St Andrew's, we view spiritual growth as becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. These opportunities happen throughout each and every day as children deal with delight, disappointment and the chance to be present with themselves. For this reason, every member of the school community is familiar with the school's shared language of spirituality and will respond to pupils appropriately. Throughout the daily life of the school, including lunch times and playtimes, pupils know that their references to wows, ows and nows will be heard and taken seriously. They will be encouraged to reflect on these experiences and be comfortable about talking about spirituality.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The RE lead ensures the spirituality policy is shared with all staff and CPD is given when required.

Governors ensure that this policy is fully implemented and that practice is consistent with the school's Christian vision, in line with the school's monitoring policy and schedule for governors.

Roles and Responsibilities

As we recognise that there are opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners in every aspect of our school life, every member of our staff team is committed to support this spiritual growth wherever appropriate.

The RE lead is responsible for supporting and leading spiritual development in our school, including monitoring opportunities for spiritual growth in collective worship, the whole curriculum (including RE) and the general ethos of the school within daily life.

The policy will be reviewed every two years.