CHILTON FOLIAT CofE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our School Christian Vision
With thankfulness, courage and love,
we strive to improve heart and mind.

At Chilton Foliat Primary School we honour our educational heritage, supported by a strong Christian ethos. We strive to provide a diverse education that inspires children to develop a **thirst for knowledge**. This is delivered in a safe, thoughtful and nurturing environment promoting self-discipline, motivation and excellence in all that we do. We encourage strong partnerships and inclusive relationships amongst pupils, parents, carers, staff and the wider community. Our children leave Chilton Foliat Primary School with a deep understanding of the impact of living out our school vision and values. As a result, they are well-rounded, confident and able to contribute positively to a wider community. They want to continue to **thirst for knowledge** and strive to improve **heart** and **mind** enjoying a diverse curriculum in their next educational setting.

Spirituality Policy

Date Reviewed	March 2025
Review Period	Annually/2 Yearly/Readopted/Other
Review Body	Headteacher/Foundation Committee

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst". John 4:13

Intent

Chilton Foliat Church of England VA Primary School – Definition of Spirituality

Our spiritual quest is to grow hearts and minds, to understand ourselves better and our place and purpose in the world. Allow ourselves to wonder and question deeply, without judgement or barrier and understand how the world in all its beauty can change us for the better.

Rationale

Spirituality is a powerful force that determines what we are, and our self-understanding. It forms the basis for successful relationships, and shapes our behaviour and outlook on life, others and the world.

Spiritual development relates to that aspect of inner life through which we acquire insight into our personal experiences, which are of enduring worth.

At Chilton Foliat Church of England Primary School, the spiritual dimension is expressed through our strong Christian faith, and the recognition of the spiritual nature of mankind and underpinned by our shared understanding and definition.

Our Christian and spiritual ethos enables and encourages all children to grow and flourish spiritually.

It is our aim that the children's individual spiritual development is fostered as an integral element of the range of learning opportunities and experiences they encounter as part of the curriculum, and that it permeates all strands of school life.

Intent

The aims for spirituality at Chilton Foliat Church of England Primary School are:

- To provide a context of faith, security and loving relationships to support each child's spiritual search
- To foster the spiritual development of each child, regardless of age, sex, ability or cultural background
- To foster self-awareness and promote a feeling of self-worth
- To develop a set of values, principles and beliefs
- To develop positive human qualities
- To develop respect and empathy for other people and their beliefs
- To foster respect for different people's feelings and values
- To develop the children's enthusiasm to explore and learn through enquiry and firsthand experiences
- To enable the children to attribute meaning to experiences
- To enable the children to value the non-material dimension of life
- To foster reflection and stillness
- To foster a sense of meaning, purpose and direction in life
- To encourage imagination and creativity

- To develop a sense of awe and wonder at the miracle of creation, life and the natural world
- To enable the children to experience a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them, including the intangible
- To share Christian stories and respond to Christian festivals, rituals and symbols, particularly those from the Anglican tradition.

Organisation and Implementation

Without curiosity, without the inclination to question, and without the exercise of imagination, insight and intuition, children would lack the motivation to learn. In view of this teaching styles are adopted which:

- Value the children's questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns
- Enable the children to make connections between aspects of their learning.
- Encourage the children to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference, e.g. asking 'why?', 'how?', and 'where?' as well as 'what?'.

Spirituality is not taught, but is an inherent interwoven part of all aspects of school life and is nurtured and promoted as a natural element of the curriculum.

The following opportunities will be made available, as an integral part of the school's practice, to facilitate the development of spirituality:

- To explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives
- Where children already have religious beliefs, to support and develop these beliefs in ways, which are personal and relevant to them as an integral part of the school's practice
- To engage in enquiry and exploration as part of experiential, first hand learning
- To look attentively and observe carefully
- To be creative and imaginative
- To listen with discernment
- To reflect and respond to issues in moments of quiet or inspired through music, art, text, film or artefacts
- To explore and develop what animates themselves and others
- To understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful
- To value what is good and worthwhile and to make value judgements through discussion and exchange of views
- To work collaboratively with peers, valuing the contribution made by others.
- To respect all, as modelled by staff in their relationships with others
- To experience silent, calm and tranquil moments which afford time for reflection
- To work and live in harmony with others in the school and wider community

- To have confidence to express ideas, views and opinions, even if others do not agree.

Opportunities for spiritual development are presented or naturally arise, and are promoted in all aspects of the curriculum and school life as the children become actively engaged in an enquiry based curriculum, which provides a wide range of experiential learning opportunities that enables them to question, consider, reflect and respond, and consider their own values, beliefs and feelings and those of others, with whom they are working alongside or with.

Outlined below are some of the ways in which spiritual development is nurtured and promoted as part of the curriculum:

In Physical Education:

- Being a team member
- Pushing yourself to the limits
- Extremes of skill, endurance and achievement
- Emotion in sport
- Personal limitation and failure
- Appreciation of perfection
- Sportsmanship.

In Design and Technology:

- Discovering how something works
- Appreciating genius
- Beauty in design
- Perseverance to solve problems
- Personal achievement
- Learning from others and nature.

In English:

- Empathy with authors and the characters in stories and plays
- The appreciation of beauty in language
- Emotions and sentiments in writing and speech
- The values of great works
- Heroes and heroines in literature
- Imagining oneself as someone else
- Escaping into other worlds through literature
- The element of wonder in literature

In Maths:

- Infinity and nothing
- Pattern and order
- Shape and regularity

- Truth, certainty and likelihood
- The universality of mathematics over time and space
- The wonder of numbers, formulae and equations.

In Science:

- Wonder as the basis of science
- Questions of beginning, creation and evolution
- Discovering the limits of experimentation
- Birth, life, death and renewal
- The universe and beyond
- Regularity and order in science
- Beliefs in science and the faith of scientists
- The impact of scientific achievements.

In Computing:

- The wonder of worldwide instant communication
- The speed of the growth of knowledge
- The accessibility of knowledge and contact with other people worldwide.

In the Creative Arts (Art, Music, Drama and Dance):

- The work of creative artists from a variety of times and places
- Beauty, truth and goodness
- Expressing, interpreting and exploring deep feelings and profound beliefs
- Artistic creativity
- The effects of the arts on emotions and senses
- The arts as a means of expressing mood
- Skill in creation and performance, and particularly in personal reflection upon their own creativity using various art forms.
- Effects on the emotions and senses
- Personal response and preference
- Mood
- Skill
- Pattern
- Formulae.

In Geography:

- Wonder at the diversity of environments and people
- Questions about the care of the environment
- The beliefs behind particular causes and campaigns
- World (economic) development
- Land formation
- Empathy with people from other parts of the world.

In History:

- Being in touch with past people, things and ideas
- Being part of history
- Handling artefacts
- Influential events and people
- The commitment of significant people in history
- Conflict, legacy, and other historical substantive concepts
- Interpretation in history
- The nature and importance of invention and exploration
- Empathy with people from other times in history.

In Religion and World Views Education:

- People, places, things, books, actions and ideas held by religious believers to be holy
- Ultimate questions of meaning and purpose
- Ideas of the divine/questions of God
- Forms of worship
- Use of music, art and drama to express beliefs
- Varieties of beliefs, celebrations and rituals
- Ideas of commitment and belonging to groups and institutions
- The idea of mystery and questions with no clear answers.

In Collective Worship:

- Opportunities for reflection and response are planned into worship.
- Stillness
- Personal and collective beliefs are respected
- Sharing and celebrating common beliefs
- Celebrating success
- Sharing happiness, sorrow, hurt, excitement, anticipation, fear, etc.
- Common activities such as singing, listening, laughing, praying, reflecting on a theme
- Remembering and celebrating the lives of people of spiritual significance
- Emphasising common purpose and values
- Experiencing emotions.

In addition, as part of the curriculum, the children have opportunities:

- To visit places of beauty, interest and challenge
- To admire and wonder at the natural environment and human creative efforts
- To work out personal relationships in unusual and challenging situations
- To experience community cohesion links at a local, national and global level
- To engage in charity based activities
- To participate in a wide range of events and activities, involving a range of outside agencies, coaches, etc.

To facilitate spiritual development, the organisation of the school and the environment for learning are such that:

- Everyone involved in the life of the school is valued and seen to be valued
- Policies and ensuing practices are clearly seen to reflect the worth of individuals
- Behaviour and people management policies and practices are collectively arrived at and discussed regularly
- All adults recognise the need to set good examples of mutual respect and considerate, compassionate behaviour
- The quality and nature of the learning environment and displays reflect the value placed on pupils and staff
- Aesthetic awareness is encouraged
- The atmosphere of the school welcomes differences in beliefs and values, and invites everyone to belong
- The achievements, successes and efforts of everyone are recognised and celebrated.

Assessment

Spirituality will be assessed as an integral part of curriculum practice and the children's involvement in the life of the school community. There is no benchmark.

These are areas in which children are expected to grow as part of their spiritual development:

- Reflect on their experiences with increasing sensitivity
- Question and explore the meaning of experience
- Understand and evaluate a range of possible reasons and interpretations
- Develop personal views and insights
- Apply insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to their own lives in line with the school's Christian status and history
- Know that belief is valuable and that the Christian belief is endorsed by the whole school community.

Monitoring and Review

Provision for spiritual development is monitored and reviewed by:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by RWV/Collective Worship Leaders, Head Teacher and governors.
- Pupil Conferences
- A Spirituality Walk/Displays
- Discussions at staff and Governing Body meetings
- Audits of policies and schemes of work.