



New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School



Spirituality Policy

As a church school, New Holland Primary seeks to live out the church's philosophy of "Valuing all God's children" paying particular attention to the Christian Vision, "Looking forward with hope. Flourishing. Doing all the good we can."

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What is spirituality?

At New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School we believe that to talk about spirituality is essentially to talk about something which is beyond words. We believe that spiritual development may not only be synonymous with Religious Education and Collective Worship and can be explored through many different curriculum areas. We define spirituality by education of the whole child and providing full life experiences supports our aspirational vision.

As a school we believe that Spirituality is the way in which we combine our thoughts and emotions to reflect, respond to, and seek, to give meaning and purpose to the experiences we encounter in life. The windows, mirrors, doors analogy clarifies this meaning.

We gaze out through **windows** onto the world, responding with our emotions and trying to make sense of what we see. We give children opportunities to become aware of the world in new ways, to wonder about life's 'Wows' (things that are amazing) and 'Ows' (things that bring us up short).

We use **mirrors** to reflect on our thoughts and feelings, and how what we see through the window connects with our inner selves, and how we connect and consider the big questions of life.

With each new encounter, the children are given an opportunity to put into action what they believe and value as we walk out through the **door**.

Pupils' spiritual development is shown through their:

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning. Willingness to reflect on their experiences

Why is it important

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 support the whole school community to share this responsibility and to develop the shared language of spirituality. Opportunities are available for all to develop spiritually in our supportive and nurturing school inspired by our vision and lived out through our Christian values of love, perseverance, respect, honesty, hope and compassion.

Christians believe that God became human and therefore always strive to be the best human they can possibly be. As educators and in accordance with the Equalities Act 2010,

we want to help every child to be the best that they can be and have a duty to support the children to achieve this; part of this responsibility is to help children develop spiritually.

At New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School, all aspects of school life reflect our Christian vision “Looking forward with hope, Flourishing. Doing all the good we can.” and our policies are based upon this.

What do we aim to achieve for the children?

- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of self- the inner person and the way that this shapes an individual’s perception of themselves as a unique human being. The children reflect on the relationship they have with their sense of being a unique person.
- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of others – a growing empathy, concern & compassion of how to treat others. The children reflect on how their values and principles affect their relationships with others.
- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of a physical and creative world – a growing relationship with beauty through the ability to respond emotionally to experiences of the wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity. The children explore their understanding beauty and the affect this has on their perception of and relationship with the world.
- The children become increasingly aware of the concept of the beyond – a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experiences beyond the everyday. The children search for meaning in their very existence and their place in the greater scheme of things.
- The children develop an understanding of the beliefs and values of Christianity and other world religions. The children are respectful of the beliefs and values of others.
- The children develop an understanding of the ethos of a Church school and the content, language and symbolism of the Christian faith as a way of understanding our meaning and purpose in life.
- The children develop the ability to question.
- The children develop their ability to express their thoughts, ideas, feelings and their beliefs.

How we do it?

- We provide and plan for a wide range of opportunities for children to develop spiritually in all areas of the curriculum. In particular through Religious Education, English, Maths, P.S.H.E., Science, Humanities, Art and Music.
- We provide and plan for a wide range of opportunities for children to develop spiritually through Worship including: whole school, community and class worship.
- We also promote spiritual development opportunities through our wider curriculum, for example: Anti-Bullying Week, Themed RE Days, personal development opportunities and workshops.
- We provide areas for quiet reflection in school and in the outdoor environment.
- We provide opportunities for prayer, including silence and stillness.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the beating heart of New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality is regularly 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. 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.

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 in New Holland Church of England and Methodist Primary School 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. For further details, please refer to the Humber Estuary Federation Religious Education and Worldviews Policy and the Statement of Entitlement.