



GRAYSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Church of England (Aided)

Spirituality Policy

Policy Schedule	
Last reviewed	Spring 2026
Shared with Governing Body and Staff	Spring 2026
Next Review	Spring 2027



Welcome to Grayswood CE Primary School- a place where everyone counts.

*Everybody at Grayswood Church of England Primary School is nurtured and loved as a unique child of God. Growing together through **perseverance** and **teamwork**, we learn to **love** and **forgive** with **kindness** and **respect**. As we flourish, we embrace the future with hope, confidence and positivity.*

'Love one another as I have loved you' (John 15:12)

Our mission statement to *'Love one another as I have loved you'* is at the heart of our school and feeds into all aspects of life here at Grayswood.

1. Legal requirements

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 states:

The curriculum for a maintained school or maintained nursery school satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which: (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and (b) prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The SIAMS Framework states that: 'Schools and trusts must enable the spiritual flourishing of those in the school community' (Framework 2024, para. 4.4) and The Church of England Vision for Education has a core desire for 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) which requires educating the whole person.

As defined in the Ofsted School Inspection Handbook (Personal Development - SMSC), spiritual development includes pupils' ability to be 'reflective about their beliefs, respect others' values, show enjoyment and fascination in learning, use imagination and creativity, and reflect on their experiences.'

Our awareness and understanding of spiritual development will enrich what we offer to the children and to all in our school community.

2. Our definition of 'spirituality'

Spirituality is a difficult concept to define because it is a very personal experience, thus everyone experiences it differently – for many people it is a personal and developmental journey. Spirituality is not the same as having a religion or faith; a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith.

At Grayswood school, we have defined spirituality as:

Spirituality is a deeply personal experience that comes from within. Spirituality concerns a person's relationship with themselves, others, the beauty of the physical and creative world and beyond with God (or the transcendent).

In keeping with our Christian vision, we recognise that we are all a unique child of God and we all have a spiritual dimension to our lives. In our community we nurture this with the academic rigour we bring to our work and through the love we give to ensure children and adults flourish in order to reach their full potential.

Spirituality is about helping everyone grow and feel happiness and contentment. It means understanding who we are, taking care of our mind, body, and soul, and treating others with kindness. Spirituality also helps us see the beauty in the world and think about what's really important in life. It's about looking after ourselves, helping others, and making the world a better place for everyone.

Because there are many faces to spirituality, the language we use to define it is not child-friendly, so when we talk about it with our pupils, we refer to it as:

- Engaging our mind, body and soul
- Exploring our feelings and emotions
- Caring for nature and the environment we live in
- Having a sense of awe and wonder
- Wanting to love and be loved
- Making sense of the world around me

To help our children visualise when we are being spiritual, we have adopted Liz Mills' work on 'Windows, mirrors and doors'.

3. Our aims

Children are born inquisitive, and it is our duty to nurture this natural curiosity and guide them towards looking at the world and noticing, with awe and wonder, the natural and man-made delights all around us. We want to encourage them to ask 'big questions' about life, religion, nature, science and any other area of fascination.

We aim for children, and adults, to grow in their 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 be open to an awareness of the transcendent in the whole of life
- be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engage in reflection/meditation/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 like friends and family, and show generosity towards others

(From David Smith's work on Spiritual Capacities)

At Grayswood we provide many opportunities for children to learn about nature and the role they play in protecting our world. We encourage children to be courageous advocates for the environment and creation. As a Church School, this is especially important. Additionally, each class has the opportunity for a term to take part in Forest School.

We are a very caring school and pride ourselves on our ethos of family and community. Through our Christian Values, we teach children to care for friends, family and the community.

Children's spiritual development is fostered through all aspects of our provision. It is about the relationships and the values that we consider to be important, as well as the development of knowledge, concepts, skills and attitudes.

We support pupils in their spiritual development by:

- Providing opportunities for spiritual development in collective worship
- Providing opportunities for spiritual development in RE
- Providing opportunities for spiritual development in the wider curriculum
- Capturing opportunities for awe and wonder as they arise
- Providing spaces in classrooms, public spaces, outside, and by using the church building, and through the 'Prayer Spaces in School' website
- Offering pupils opportunities to develop their own spiritual leadership, through leading collective worship and other opportunities

We capture the above in our class 'Spirituality Journal'. All members of our school community have a responsibility for helping to nurture children's spiritual development.

School staff can do this through:

- Establishing and maintaining a partnership between pupils, parents and staff; recognising and respecting the faith background of the children and their families
- Taking part in, and supporting, collective acts of worship
- Being good role models in their conduct towards other members of the community
- Promoting an attitude of respect for other people and for others' views
- Nurturing consideration for and generosity towards others

- Drawing on the experiences of pupils and their families during religious education lessons and beyond
- Recognising and being constantly aware of the needs and backgrounds of each individual pupil
- Being willing to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and the faiths of others
- Having a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education.

Parents and governors can help through:

- Adopting a positive attitude to the value of spiritual education
- Supporting the school's Christian ethos and acts of community worship such as assemblies and church services
- Respecting the views and beliefs of others.

Other related policies:

Collective worship

Child protection and safeguarding

Behaviour

Anti-bullying

RSHE

Wellbeing

RE