



Filey C E Nursery & Infants Academy

'Inspiring Confident Learners, Reflecting Christian Values'

We endeavour to uphold Christian teaching to:

"Shine as lights in the world and love as Jesus loves us" (Philippians 2:15, John 13.34)

Our school is a Church of England School rooted in 'Community, Compassion and Friendship'.

Spirituality Policy

In line with our school vision, we define spiritual development as an ongoing, reflective journey. It teaches our children about questioning, understanding and relationships.

Spirituality looks to explore our relationships and connections. These are relationships with:

- Ourselves
- Others
- The World
- Beyond

Spirituality enables our children to be happy; flourish and succeed and live life in all its fullness. Our adventurous, rich curriculum will foster a passion and curiosity for learning knowing that there is always more to uncover and discover. Threading throughout is our strong Christian ethos empowering all to flourish and "Shine as lights in the world and love as Jesus loves us" (Philippians 2:15, John 13.34).

Using guidance from the Diocese of York, we have collated a summary of the opportunities offered for spirituality. This document provides clear ideas and guidance for how spirituality is developed and nurtured across our school.

Ourselves	Personal spiritual development is a journey of self discovery that begins with emotional literacy and the ability to pause and reflect. By fostering an awareness of their own feelings, our children learn to articulate their inner world, which builds an appreciation for their own unique identity. This inner happiness is further strengthened through the practice of
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	gratitude, where children are encouraged to be thankful not just for external gifts but for the value of who they are as individuals. As they explore the beginnings of personal faith, their imaginations and creativity are ignited allowing them to wonder at the world and express their spiritual insights.
Others	This begins with the foundational experience of being loved, which provides our children with the emotional security needed to extend that same warmth, tolerance and understanding to those who are different from them. Our children start to recognise how differences can be celebrated and realise that the smallest hands can make a difference in their community. Our children start to see themselves as active, compassionate contributors to their community and the people who live in it.
The World	Developing a sense of awe and wonder is the spiritual practice of slowing down to notice the extraordinary within the ordinary. Our children have opportunities to pause and reflect. Shared experiences ignite our children's imagination. This spiritual alertness ensures that our children don't just move through the world but truly inhabit it with a sense of gratitude and curiosity.
Beyond	Our children learn to move beyond the tangible world to explore the "unseen" through a lens of curiosity and connection. We provide intentional opportunities for prayer and worship and children are encouraged to build a personal relationship with God. This connection provides a safe framework for them to formulate and discuss complex themes of life, death, suffering, and the nature of God in a classroom and whole school context. As they engage in these conversations, they begin the process of making sense of the world, learning that faith is a compass that helps them navigate the mysteries of existence.

Our Christian Values of Community, Compassion & Friendship are firmly rooted in this policy.

Community	The community is often described as the "Body of Christ." The idea is that spirituality isn't always a solo endeavour. It's something that grows best when you're connected to others. Our school's strong community links act as a mirror, reflecting our children's character back to them. They help to create a sense of belonging that provides the emotional foundation for spiritual curiosity. Our Multi-Generational work helps to support this further.
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Compassion	Spirituality involves looking beyond oneself. Recognising their own value and "inner light," our children naturally start to look for that same spark in others. We often refer to this as "loving your neighbour as yourself," (Leviticus 19:18) where the spiritual discipline of reflection helps our children to pause and wonder how someone else might be feeling. By practicing prayer and communal service, our children develop emotional resilience. My Happy Mind helps our children to spot character strengths which can best help themselves and others.
Friendship	Our children learn that being a good friend is a sacred commitment rather than just a play based convenience. As our children's spiritual identity grows, they begin to move past transactional relationships and toward relational depth based on the Christian value of fellowship. Through spiritual practices like collective worship and shared reflection, we encourage equality and mutual respect. This inner growth provides the moral vocabulary such as forgiveness, patience and generosity.

Spiritual development

Our children have opportunities to develop their spirituality by learning about life, learning about themselves and also learning to live out our christian values in their wider community. In our school, Spiritual development is nurtured through a holistic approach that balances quiet contemplation with active, relational growth, personal to our children. By integrating regular moments of stillness, prayer, and inquiry into our school ethos and curriculum, our school creates a sacred space for children to open themselves to God and the wonders of the world.

Our children are encouraged to express their creativity and emotions alongside restorative forgiveness and the observation of positive role models. Our children are given the opportunities to appreciate the beauty and the "awe and wonder" of the world. Spiritual development can happen in both planned and unplanned opportunities. Our school community provides our children's spirit to flourish in unity with others.

In our school, spirituality isn't just a lesson in a book; it is the golden thread that runs through everything we do. We believe that a child's spirit grows when they are given the space to wonder, the safety to be themselves and the chance to love others.

This policy was created in March 2026
 To be reviewed September 2028
 A Jackson

