



‘Being the best we can be in a thriving community,  
following the example of Jesus.’

## Spiritual Development Policy

Review cycle	1 / 2 / 3 years	Date: September 2025
Approved by	Full Governing Body / Executive Headteacher	
Changes made in this review cycle		
Linked policies		
Signed		Date: September 2025
Position	Executive Headteacher	
Date of next Review	September 2028	

“To be the best that we can be, in a thriving community, following in the example of Jesus”.

### Introduction



At St Mary's, our school Christian values of Love, Strength and Faith, are at the heart of all that we do, ensuring that as the pupils grow and eventually move on, they have a strong moral compass to guide them through their journey. Part of this is promoting the idea of and developing pupils' Spirituality.

Spirituality is developed by exposing pupils to:

- 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

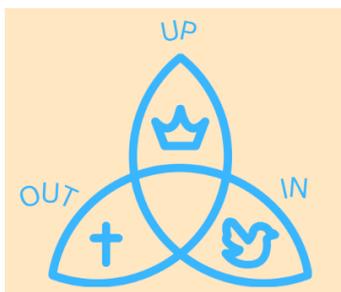
### How do we promote Spirituality?

**'That which inspires us, moves us, makes us wonder, and makes us feel loved.'**

At St Mary's, we aim to foster Spiritual development through:

### Our school vision and values

Our school vision and values (above) run deeply through our whole school community. They encompass all personnel – pupils, staff, volunteers, governors, PTFA, parents/carers, St Mary's church congregation and the local community. All are encouraged to use the values of Love, Strength and Faith to guide their decision-making, moral behaviour and relationships. We recognise our influential role within the village and as such ensure we promote being part of a 'thriving community' through links with the church and PTFA, as well as showing care and respect for the environment through our Eco-Committee, social justice projects and curriculum.



### In, Up, Out

Our children will encounter experiences every day that inspire to ask the 'big questions' and allow them to explore the awe and wonder of the world around us. Spiritual experiences will offer time and space to consider topics that are possibly unknown or challenging as concepts but central to the development of individual values and beliefs. The experiences will explicitly develop our children intellectually, emotionally and morally. They will learn to pause, consider and listen to encourage them to develop wisdom through reflection. They will know how to affirm their thoughts,

feel rooted in self-belief and have the courage to lead change for the better. They will take their reflections and develop their ability to teach and lead through 'Go and do likewise'.

Staff or students may identify an opportunity for spiritual exploration during their learning. The learning will pause in order to support a deeper understanding and appreciation of the current topic. Spirituality can be explored in many different ways. We encourage staff and children to explore their chosen medium for reflection.

As a school, we have chosen to use the 'In, up, out' concept as a shared language for spirituality. We have developed the model to ensure it is accessible to all of our children from EYFS to Year 6.

It explicitly encourages an individual to look out into the world and develop knowledge around a given topic or theme. Skilfully, we encourage children to ensure that they explore a variety of 'windows' through experiences and scenarios – including the 'wows' and the 'ows' of life. Using the 'In', they will explore their own thoughts, ask questions and consider what the experience means for them and how it has made them feel. The 'out' allows children to think about that this means for their choices and behaviours – what changes for them as a result? Can they lead or model change? The 'Up' enables children to explore how they feel about God as a Father and a creator.

### Our Curriculum

Spiritual development is a key element of our curriculum and is explored through many different subjects.

Religious Education: enables pupils to develop spirituality through a sense of awe and wonder learning about the life and work of Jesus as well as exploring the world through the story of Creation. It encourages pupils to reflect on their own beliefs but also exposes them to beliefs (both religious and non-religious through our thematic studies) that they need to be mindful and respectful of.

PSHE: enables pupils to recognise that everyone contributes to the society in which they live and the wider world. Promotes an awareness of self, in connection with self-esteem, confidence and morals and allows them a safe opportunity to express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.

Literacy: enables pupils to develop empathy and understanding by reflecting on the role of others through listening to stories and drama. Encourages pupils to be creative through varied texts and genres and provides ample opportunity to develop imagination through planning, writing and listening.

Science and Humanities: enables pupils to develop spirituality through a sense of awe and wonder through discovering the world around us. Promotes the idea of protecting the environment and an opportunity for enjoyment and fascination learning about natural forces and beauty around the world.

Music, Art and Physical Education: enables pupils to develop a sense of wonder at personal achievements and an understanding of people's feelings through being reflective and critical. Provides opportunities for children to listen/look at, and respond to, a range of music and art and express themselves creatively.

Spiritual Journals: Once a week, each class has a dedicated time for spiritual reflection to further explore the stories/ideas shared in Collective Worship. This allows pupils time to, often creatively, reflect both as a whole class and individually.

Courageous Advocacy: A courageous advocate is someone who champions a cause which is special and meaningful to them. At St Mary's, we teach our pupils that it is important to help others when we can no matter who they are, where they come from or what challenges they may face. Using our

values of Love, Strength and Faith to guide us, we support a range of charities in our local area, nationally and globally. The Pupil Governors work with staff, governors, parents, pupils and St. Mary's Church to identify worthy causes to support. Each term, there is also a question displayed in the hall to encourage pupils to reflect and offer their own ideas and beliefs.

### **Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is a key part of promoting spirituality as it allows pupils an opportunity to reflect on others' beliefs and morals, whilst thinking about their own. It encourages enjoyment through learning new stories, discussing world events or singing together and allows a time for creativity through special event or class assemblies.

On Monday mornings, we meet together and focus on the termly value. This is linked to a story and there will be a biblical link to this – either using a biblical story or a particular biblical verse that ties in with the value. The Head Boy and Girl will open the worship by lighting the candle and saying the prayers. The leader of the worship, helped by the Pupil Governors, will then take the school through the worship and finish with a song. At the end, the Head Boy and Girl will then close the worship and the children will have a few moments to reflect on what they have learnt. On Tuesday mornings, the children will first gather together for prayer and a song, before going back to our classes to have Spiritual Journal time (as explained above). On Wednesday mornings, the whole school go up to church for worship with Reverend Julie. With the help of some Year 5 and 6 volunteers, she will lead the school through a Bible story linked with the value of the term and the children will sing together. On Thursday mornings, the children will meet in the hall for singing worship. Here they will learn a hymn or non-denominational song with a similar theme to the value of the term. They will also learn songs for particular Christian festivals across the year, such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other celebrations such as Harvest. On a Friday, parents are welcomed into our school and we celebrate those who have been showing their Star Skills during the week, as well showing the school values of Love, Strength and Faith. Children are awarded certificates for these. We also award children with Headteachers awards and celebrate birthdays alongside any other achievements the children have received.

### **Links with the Church and Community**

Each week, the pupils have Collective Worship in St Mary's Church led by Reverend Julie. Pupils have a key role in these services through drama performances, writing and reading their own prayers or reading bible texts. The significant Christian festivals such as Harvest, Christmas (Nine Carols and Lessons), Lent (Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday) and Easter (Easter Readings and Hymns) are all held in Church. We also hold a Leavers Day Service and End of the School Year Service in the Church.

Additionally, we carry out a range of different fundraising to support many good causes, some of which include:

- MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Church Street Cafe
- Sport Relief
- Comic Relief
- Children in Need
- The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- International Needs
- Sheldrick Trust

We encourage our pupils, parents and staff to be generous with their time and think of ways they can show care for our world and people who live in it. Some examples of this include:

- Pupil Governors who seek the views and ideas of all members of the school community

- Volunteering at the St Mary's Church Community Cafe
- Wildlife Explorers Eco-Committee regular litter-picking
- Growing our own vegetable garden and sharing with the community
- Volunteering at the community Christmas lunch, Hartfield Fete and other village events
- Links with other schools within the federation, local community and globally