'Learning for a fuller life...'

Taverham VC CE Junior School Spirituality Policy

As a Church of England school, we see it as our duty to give children and members of the school community the skills to maximise their engagement with the world around them, enable them to grow spiritually, emotionally and personally, and develop the character and values which will serve them well in future life and support success.

Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-	**Taverham VC CE Junior School**
On:-	**12/5/2025**
Chair of Governors:-	**Mr Matthew Lambert**
Next Review:-	**February 2028**

Our Definition:

Spiritual development is the development of an awareness that there is "something more to life than meets the eye, something more than the material, something more than the obvious, something to wonder at, something to respond to." (Terence Copley)

Spirituality is the awareness that life holds deeper meaning beyond the material, inviting curiosity and reflection and encouraging enthusiasm for learning. At Taverham VC CE Junior School, we encourage children to explore big questions (involving God or otherwise), appreciate moments of awe and wonder (planned into lessons, ad hoc and outside school), and reflect on their place in the world - all of which can sometimes generate more questions than answers. Our new mural (Sunny and Pea, Spring 2025) is a focal point that depicts the four elements of Spirituality we wish to make explicit to the children – Self, Others, Beauty and Beyond. These align with our school vision: 'Learning for a fuller life.'*

**This is based on the words of Jesus Christ, as reported in the Gospel of St John – 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full' (Chapter 10 verse 10). Please see our School Vision for more information.*

Spiritual development:

- **Self -** cultivates a deeper understanding of ourselves, encouraging reflection on our values, emotions, and place in the world;
- **Others -** develops empathy, open-mindedness and a deep curiosity about others, fostering a greater understanding of their perspectives and experiences;
- **Beauty -** recognize and value the beauty in the world, fostering a sense of awe and a deeper connection to the wonders around us.
- **Beyond -** provides the opportunity to reflect on life's greater mysteries, encouraging a deeper exploration of the unknown and our place within it.

Mural:

We use our spirituality mural during assemblies, collective worship, classroom curriculum learning and on an ad hoc basis to develop in pupils an awareness of their own spirituality and the language surrounding it; to help them identify moments of wonder and awe in their lives and to appreciate the impact these have on them.



For information as to how each subject contributes to pupils' spiritual development, please see individual subject overviews under the 'Learning > Curriculum' tab on the school website.

Spirituality - child friendly headings

Ourselves *(awareness of self and identity)*	**Others** *(reflect on ourselves in relation to affect on others)*	**Beauty** *(awareness of the physical and creative world)*	**Beyond** *(Relationship of beyond the physical)*
Know who we are and how we react and respond to experiences.	Understand and reflect on the experiences of others.	be imaginative and creative	Stay curious about the wonders around you and feel the magic in all parts of life.
Take part in reflection	Put things right when we make a mistake	be aware of and enjoy the beauty in the world	Be curious and open minded.
Love and care for themselves, believe in their potential to achieve, and to develop the resilience needed when facing challenges.	Forgive others and know that we can move on	recognise and enjoy experiences of awe and wonder	Explore and think about answers to big questions.
Follow what you believe in and what feels right to you, and stand up for it.	Appreciate and be thankful		
Know that we can forgive ourselves	Show generosity		
Be comfortable with stillness and silence			
Grow through failure as well as success			
Be willing to try new strategies/ behaviours/ [things] and take risks			

In conclusion, spiritual development at Taverham VC CE Junior School is about nurturing a sense of wonder, curiosity, and reflection that goes beyond the material world. Through our focus on self, others, beauty, and the beyond, we aim to inspire children to explore life's deeper meaning, fostering a lifelong enthusiasm for learning and a greater understanding of themselves and the world around them; and through this their relationships with the world and their value within it. By encouraging this reflective journey, we hope to equip our students with the tools to appreciate the mysteries of life and approach their learning and relationships with empathy, openness and awe.

(Written with reference to David Smith's work on Spiritual Capacities)

Completed: April 2025 by RCS