

POLICY DOCUMENT



Spiritual Development Policy

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1. What is Spirituality at Kelvedon St Mary's?

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 that we encounter in life.

Aspects of Spirituality

Beliefs

The development of personal beliefs, including religious beliefs; an appreciation that people have individual and shared beliefs on which they base their lives; a developing understanding of how beliefs contribute to personal identity.

A sense of awe and wonder

Being inspired by the natural world, mystery, or human achievement.

Experiencing feelings of transcendence

Feelings which may give rise to belief in the existence of a divine being, or the belief that one's inner resources provide the ability to rise above everyday experience.

Search for meaning and purpose

Asking 'why me?' at times of hardship or suffering; reflecting on the origins and purpose of life; responding to challenging experiences of life such as beauty, suffering and death.

Self-knowledge An awareness of oneself in terms of thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities, and experiences; a growing understanding and acceptance of individual identity; the development of self-respect.

Relationships

Recognising and valuing the worth of each individual; developing a sense of community; the ability to build up relationships with others.

Creativity

Expressing innermost thoughts and feelings; exercising the imagination, inspiration, intuition, and insight.

Feelings and emotions

The sense of being moved by beauty or kindness; hurt by injustice or aggression; a growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to learn to use feelings as a source of growth.

2. Why is spiritual development important at Kelvedon St Mary's?

Spiritual development plays a crucial role in underpinning the golden thread of deep knowledge, critical thinking, strong communication, and enjoyment that runs throughout our Inspire Curriculum

By fostering moral and ethical values, emotional well-being, and a sense of purpose, spiritual development provides the foundation upon which pupils can build their academic and personal growth. It encourages empathy, resilience, and self-reflection, all of which are essential for critical thinking and effective communication.

Moreover, the cultural awareness and sense of community promoted through spiritual development enhance individuals' understanding of the world and their enjoyment of learning, contributing to a school culture and curriculum that enables children and adults alike to flourish together within and beyond our academy.

3. What does success in spiritual development look like at Kelvedon St Mary's?

When a pupil graduates from Kelvedon St Mary's, strong spiritual development is evident 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, including the intangible
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences

4. What does progression in spiritual development look like at Kelvedon St Mary's?

To achieve strong spiritual development, we model and enable pupils to practise the following steps through the different aspects of spiritual development:

Early Years

- **Recognise the existence of others as independent from oneself.**

Year 1

- Recognise the existence of others as independent from oneself
- **Be aware of and reflect on experience.**

Year 2

- Recognise the existence of others as independent from oneself
- Be aware of and reflect on experience
- **Question and explore the meaning of experience.**

Year 3

- Recognise the existence of others as independent from oneself
- Be aware of and reflect on experience
- Question and explore the meaning of experience
- **Understanding and evaluating a range of possible responses and interpretations.**

Year 4

- Recognise the existence of others as independent from oneself
- Be aware of and reflect on experience
- Question and explore the meaning of experience
- Understanding and evaluate a range of possible responses and interpretations
- **Develop personal views and insights.**

Year 5

- Recognise the existence of others as independent from oneself
- Be aware of and reflect on experience
- Question and explore the meaning of experience
- Understanding and evaluate a range of possible responses and interpretations
- Develop personal views and insights
- **Apply the insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to one's own life.**

Year 6

Consolidation

- Recognise the existence of others as independent from oneself
- Be aware of and reflect on experience
- Question and explore the meaning of experience
- Understanding and evaluate a range of possible responses and interpretations
- Develop personal views and insights
- Apply the insights gained with increasing degrees of perception to one's own life.

5. Academy Life and Spiritual Development

Examples of how the aspects of spirituality are promoted through our academy life include:

Our Culture – The Kelvedon Way

At Kelvedon St Mary's our bible verse provides a living example of how we choose to live our lives - **'We show love and compassion for others by truly helping them, and not merely talking about it.'** (1 John 3:18). This means we take action to ensure our academy remains a happy, ambitious and successful school. Together, our pupils, parents, staff and governors work hard and support each other to sustain a professional and positive learning community. This culture and way of working promotes effective spiritual development as:

- Everyone is involved in the life of the school, is valued, and seen to be valued.
- There is collective involvement in setting policies and practices.
- All adults recognise the need to set good examples of mutual respect and considerate behaviour.
- The quality and nature of the learning environment and displays reflect the value placed on pupils and staff.
- The atmosphere of the school welcomes differences in beliefs and values and invites everyone to belong.

Collective Worship

Collective Worship provides spiritual development opportunities linked to:

Gathering

Marking the start of the worship and drawing everyone together. This may include a specific form of welcome, a regular prayer, a call and response, specific actions such as lighting a candle etc.

Engaging

Communicating the message of the worship and stimulating thinking, for example telling and explaining a bible story, investigating a particular theme, talking about a current topical issue etc.

Responding

Giving opportunity for individual thought about and response to the message / challenge. This may include pupils sharing their ideas, a time of silent and / or guided reflection, prayers in response to the theme etc.

Sending

Marking the end of the worship and sending everyone out with purpose. This may include a challenge to apply what they have learnt from the theme, a closing prayer, a call and response, specific actions such as extinguishing the candle etc.

Religious Education

Religious Education is a subject that looks at the spiritual experiences of others and how they can change and shape lives. Religious Education allows our pupils to use what they find out about other people and their beliefs to reflect on their own experiences. Through this process,

children can engage with ultimate questions of meaning and purpose and begin to shape their own beliefs. Religious Education allows children to engage with the idea of mystery and questions with no clear answers.

The Wider Curriculum

Our Inspire Curriculum also provides endless opportunities for spiritual development, such as through being a player in Physical Education, discovering how something works in Design Technology and having empathy with authors and characters in the stories and plays we share in English lessons.

Our reflection spaces in our classrooms, around school and through our school blogs attempt to capture aspects of spirituality that are present throughout our academy life.