



## Halam Church of England Primary School

### Spirituality Statement

#### Introduction

Spirituality is at the heart of all we do at Halam C of E Primary School; it breathes life into our whole school community and enables us to live life in all its fullness (John 10:10). Spirituality is who we are at our deepest level, reflected through our relationships with ourselves, each other, the wider world, and God.

Living out our school vision—to create a school where everyone is motivated to achieve their full potential within a Christian and caring environment—means continually providing opportunities for children to grow spiritually. This allows them to become aware of the world in new ways and to wonder about life's many facets.

As a Church of England school, our spirituality is expressed through the Christian Gospel, rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. We fully respect that our children come from Christian families, families of other faiths, or no faith, and hold beliefs and values of their own. Our aim is to enable all children to reflect deeply on what it means to be human and to ascribe meaning and value to human existence.

Spiritual development relates to fundamental questions about purpose and meaning, which affect everyone. While these questions transcend religious affiliation, as a church school, we explore them within a Christian framework, encouraging a positive approach to life and hope for the future.

We describe spirituality as finding God in all things. We want our children to become aware of God, of one another, and of the world around them. We nurture the inner life of our children, embracing their questions, doubts, and the wonder of existence. We encourage reflection on what it means to be in relationship with God and growing awareness of God's presence with them.

Spirituality also involves an appreciation of what is good, joyful, truthful, and beautiful; in relationship with others, it includes generosity, creativity, and love. The spirit of a person is seen in courage, perseverance, and resilience in both setbacks and success. It is fundamental to the human condition, connected to the universal search for identity and truth, often revealed in life's challenges.

Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of a 'beyond'—a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experiences beyond the everyday. They seek meaning in their existence and their place in the greater scheme of things.



## **Aims**

We aim to foster the spiritual development of all our children by:

- Developing appreciation of their uniqueness and value as children made in the image of God.
- Deepening understanding of the distinctive Christian ethos of our school, including its language and symbolism.
- Developing knowledge of our core APPLE values—Aspire, Partnership, Persevere, Love, Enjoy - and the Biblical teachings that underpin them.
- Encouraging feelings of wonder and awe.
- Promoting awareness of, and respect for, other faiths and beliefs, while enabling children to articulate their own.
- Fostering a sense of community through using their gifts and abilities in service to others.
- Supporting strategies for good mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- Building self-awareness and informed decision-making skills.
- Developing the language and skills to reflect on life's big questions and mysteries.
- Helping children make sense of their feelings and emotions related to life events.
- Encouraging awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure, and loss can be occasions for spiritual growth.
- Valuing diversity through engagement with others.
- Nurturing curiosity, creativity, and imagination.
- Supporting reflection on experiences of compassion, beauty, and the natural world.
- Developing a commitment to care for creation as a gift from God.

**We seek to achieve these aims by:**

- Ensuring our Christian vision and APPLE values permeate all aspects of school life.
- Planning opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum and wider school activities.



- Recognising and celebrating unplanned and spontaneous moments of spiritual growth.
- Ensuring Collective Worship celebrates God's love for every individual and offers space for reflection and response.
- Nurturing understanding of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, alongside prayer and Bible teachings.
- Providing spaces for silence, stillness, and prayer.
- Encouraging spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy, and insight through creative arts, outdoor learning, and visits.
- Valuing attentive listening, observation, discernment, and respectful dialogue.
- Supporting children to navigate success and failure with resilience and grace.
- Offering a broad understanding of spirituality from various world faith and worldview perspectives through RE.
- Providing rich opportunities to explore the wonder of the natural world, emphasising stewardship of creation.
- Creating safe environments for children to explore and express feelings and celebrate diversity.
- Fostering hope, joy, reassurance, and encouragement.
- Promoting healthy relationships and positive mental health strategies.

### **Spirituality in Collective Worship**

Collective Worship is the beating heart of Halam C of E Primary School. It offers the whole school community a time to share experiences, ideas, and understanding.

Worship provides space for pupils to reflect on how positive and negative experiences shape them. It offers 'now moments'—present, mindful experiences—often linked to invitations to pray. Pupils hear the Christian story and engage in spiritual practices such as prayer, Bible reading, liturgy, and music.

We offer time to reflect on life's wonders and joys, as well as moments of pain and disappointment. Pupils are encouraged to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. We celebrate achievements and mark



Christian festivals alongside those from other faith traditions, providing time to contemplate and develop spiritually. Our Collective Worship is invitational, inspirational, and inclusive.

### **Spirituality in Religious Education**

Our RE curriculum provides a safe space for pupils to explore their own religious, spiritual, and philosophical beliefs. It promotes meaningful dialogue with those of different faiths and worldviews and links these to pupils' understanding of spirituality, including the language of wonder (wows), challenge (ows), and presence (nows).

### **Spirituality within the Curriculum**

Across subjects, we encourage reflection on spiritual themes, for example:

- **Maths:** Wonder at number patterns and immeasurable concepts like kindness and love.
- **Reading and Writing:** Exploring inspiring texts and profound meanings.
- **DT and Music:** Considering motivations behind creativity and the emotional impact of music.
- **Languages:** Understanding communication's role in connection and hospitality.
- **Geography and History:** Responding to the beauty and challenges of the world and learning from past stories.
- **PE:** Celebrating physical skill, focus, creativity, and respect.
- **Science and Art:** Delighting in discovery, questioning, and artistic expression.
- **PSHE & RSE:** Linking spirituality with relationships, emotions, safety, and wellbeing.

Every subject offers opportunities to celebrate successes, support through difficulties, and cherish moments of calm and presence.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Spiritual development is ongoing and cannot be fully measured, but we monitor it by:

- Listening and observing children.



- Discussing at staff and governors' meetings in light of our Christian vision and values.
- Sharing classroom practice and work.
- Ensuring staff understanding of spirituality through induction and professional development.
- Reviewing planning and children's work.
- Including spirituality in the school's self-evaluation process.

### **Links with Other Policies**

- Curriculum Policy
- SEND Policy
- Equality Information and Objectives
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- RSHE and RSE Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy