What is Spirituality at Weldon CE Primary?

The Church of England's Vision for Education states a core desire that children will experience life in all its fullness (John 10:10). At Weldon, we believe that we need to give all our children the chance to allow them to grow into the people God is calling them to be. In line with the Church's vision, we believe that, through 'training up a child in the way they should go,' we nurture their infinite worth fostering an enduring passion for learning and an ability to live life in all its fullness.

We believe that we can explore Spirituality by educating the whole child, providing full life experiences to meet this desire, which includes immersion in the creative subjects.

At Weldon, we define spirituality as an awareness of something greater than ourselves, experienced through reflection and connection. Spiritual development at Weldon involves unique experiences of awe and wonder, an understanding of ourselves and our connections with others, as well as seeing and relating to the physical and creative world. Spirituality is understood here as an ongoing, reflective journey. It is something that teaches us about questioning, understanding and relationships: relationships with ourselves, others, the world and beyond.

Our aims at our school are:

- To provide a context of faith, security and loving relationships to support each child's spiritual search.
- To be inclusive and foster the spiritual development of each child, regardless of age, sex, ability or cultural background.
- To foster self-awareness and promote a feeling of self-worth.

- To develop a set of values, principles and beliefs that promote positive human qualities
- To develop respect and empathy for other people and their beliefs, feeling & values
- To foster a sense of meaning, purpose and direction in life.
- To encourage imagination and creativity.
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder at the miracle of creation, life and the natural world.
- To share Christian stories and respond to Christian festivals, rituals and symbols, particularly those from the Anglican tradition.

We provide opportunities

- To explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives.
- Where children already have religious beliefs, to support and develop these beliefs in ways which are personal and relevant to them as an integral part of the school's practice.
- To have confidence to express ideas, views and opinions, even if others do not agree.
- To look attentively, observe carefully and listen with discernment.
- To be creative, imaginative and explore what animates themselves and others
- To reflect and respond to issues in moments of quiet or inspired through music, art, text, film or artefacts.
- To understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful.
- To value what is good and worthwhile and to make value judgements through discussion and exchange of views.
- To experience silent, calm and tranquil moments which afford time for reflection.
- To work and live in harmony with others in the school and wider community.

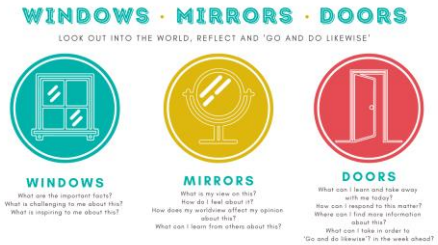
The four elements of Spirituality

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

- Ourselves
- Others
- The World
- Beyond

Nurturing and Developing Spirituality

The children encounter a range of opportunities to develop their own spiritual journey. These opportunities are raised throughout the curriculum in order to educate the whole child. We aim to teach the children to reflect on and consider their own actions in a number of different ways based on Liz Mills' ideas of Windows, Doors and Mirrors.



Windows – encourage an increased awareness of the world, it's wows, ows and nows (a moment of stillness or pause); in this children are learning about life in all its fullness.

Mirrors - find ways in which this can be reflected on with others' support; to meditate on big questions; to learn from life and its experiences. In this, children are learning from life by exploring their own insights and perspectives, and those of others.

Doors - explore a range of creative ways to respond to the above and to learn to live by putting into action what we are coming to believe and value. In this, children are learning to live by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship is at the heart of Weldon Church of England Primary School. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared.

Spirituality in Religious Education

The Church of England's *Statement of Entitlement* outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides our approach to RE and spirituality.

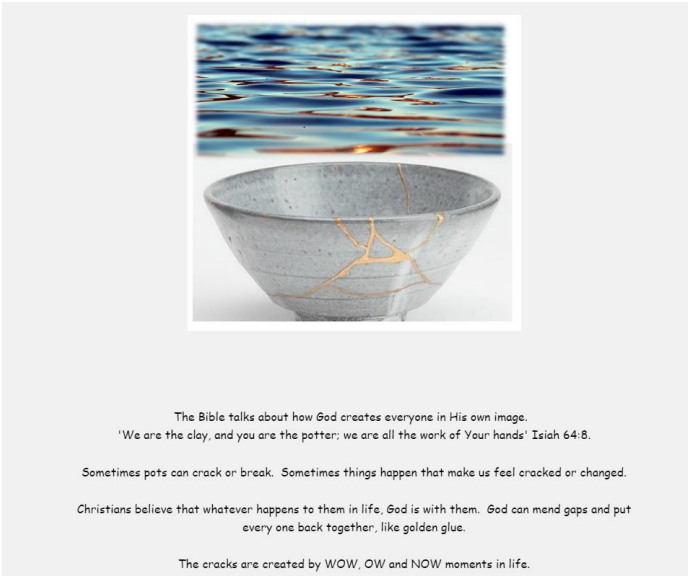
Learning activities in RE provide for the needs of all pupils, offering a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews, linking these to pupils' ideas of spirituality and the language of ***wows, ows*** and ***nows*** where appropriate.

Spirituality within the Curriculum

Weldon's Christian vision is a driver for the design of our curriculum and impacts on pupils' spiritual growth. Drawing on the language of **wows**, **ows** and **nows**, conversations around spirituality are included in classroom teaching when appropriate from Reception to Year 6.

Spirituality within the Ethos of the Daily Life of the School

In Weldon Church of England Primary School we view spiritual growth as becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. These opportunities happen throughout each and every day as children deal with delight, disappointment and the chance to be present with themselves.

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. ECTs and staff who are new to Weldon will receive training and support from those leading on spirituality.