



**"Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love".**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have shared with you previously through letters and The Friday Flyer about how we support and develop Children's understanding of spirituality and the importance of it. We felt it was important at the start of this new Academic Year to give you this information again. This equally goes hand in hand with the letter we sent out yesterday regarding our Christian vision and values. They are all interlinked.

We have also worked collaboratively with staff and children to develop a shared definition of what Spirituality means to us:

***Feeling connected to something bigger, being kind, and finding what makes us happy and calm.***

At St Mary's C of E Primary School, we believe that nurturing a child's spiritual development is fundamental to their overall growth and success. Our approach to spirituality is deeply rooted in our Christian Vision and Values, and we strive to create an environment where every child can explore and develop their own spiritual understanding.

#### **How We Develop Spiritual Understanding:**

1. **Daily Worship and Reflection:** Each day ends with collective worship where children are encouraged to reflect on Christian teachings and how they relate to their own lives. This time of reflection helps them to develop a sense of inner peace and purpose.
2. **Religious Education (RE) Curriculum:** Our RE curriculum is designed to provide children with a broad understanding of Christianity and other world religions. This inclusive approach fosters respect and appreciation for diverse beliefs and practices.
3. **Community and Service:** We emphasise the importance of community and service. Children participate in community service projects, which teach them the value of helping others and the impact of their actions on the world around them.
4. **Personal Reflection Time:** We provide opportunities for personal reflection, allowing children to contemplate their own beliefs and values. This helps them to develop a keen sense of self and moral integrity.

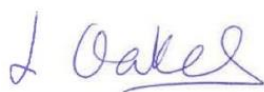
#### **How This Helps Children Flourish and Succeed:**

- **Emotional Well-being:** Spiritual development contributes to emotional well-being by providing children with a sense of belonging and purpose. This foundation helps them to navigate life's challenges with resilience and confidence.

- **Moral Development:** Understanding and reflecting on spiritual and moral values guides children in making ethical decisions. This moral compass is essential for their personal and social development.
- **Academic Success:** A well-rounded spiritual education supports academic success by fostering a positive and focused mindset. Children who feel valued and understood are more likely to engage actively in their learning.
- **Social Skills:** Participation in community and service activities enhances children's social skills and empathy. They learn to work collaboratively, respect others, and appreciate the importance of contributing to society.

We are committed to supporting your child's spiritual journey and ensuring they have the tools they need to flourish both academically and personally. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,



Laura Oakes  
Headteacher

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