

Our shared understanding of Spirituality at Offenham CE First School



"Spiritual development is not an accomplishment but a way of life." - David R. Hawkins.

At Offenham CE First School, spirituality is understood as a sense that there is something – or someone – greater than ourselves. It is an awareness of, and delight in, the beauty of creation, the uniqueness of each person, and our place within the wider world.

CONNECTION is the word that sums this up:

CONNECTION WITH SELF, CONNECTION WITH OTHERS, CONNECTION WITH BEAUTY AND CONNECTION WITH THE BEYOND

Spirituality involves understanding that our choices matter and that each of us has the capacity to make a positive difference, wherever we find ourselves. Guided by '*agape*' – love expressed through communal well-being and mutual flourishing – we seek to live in ways that promote care, justice and hope for all.

We encourage our school community to be thoughtful and reflective, as well as to be people of action: individuals who respond to their awareness and concern for others and the world around them, both locally and globally.

Hallmarks of the Kingdom of God - "Everyone is welcome, everyone is seen, no-one is forgotten and no-one is invisible" - and our roots referred to as VIVs (Very Important Values) – **Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Truth and Friendship** – alongside the Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) - **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control** - shape the motivation, attitudes and conduct of everyone in our school.

Together, our roots and fruits and our understanding of the Kingdom of God, that supports personal growth and transformation, strong relationships and a shared commitment to living well together.

In John 3:8, Jesus refers to the Spirit of God using an analogy of the wind, we cannot see the wind, but we are able to see the effects of the wind. We believe the same is true of spirituality. It's difficult to 'pin down' what spirituality is but the effects of spirituality can be seen through transformed hearts and lives.

Spirituality is deeply embedded in the life of our school and is expressed in a variety of meaningful ways. It can be seen through:

- Our shared life together, where we work collaboratively for the common good, fostering a strong sense of belonging, connection, care and mutual respect.
- A willingness to engage with life's big questions – the 'wows' and the 'ows' – explored through Collective Worship, Religious Education, and across the wider curriculum.
- Our openness to honest and sometimes challenging conversations, recognising that living well in community requires reflection, understanding and growth. We strive to practise justice, ensuring every voice is heard and valued, and that no-one feels invisible.
- Carefully planned opportunities for spiritual development within the curriculum, enabling pupils to reflect, connect, question and deepen their understanding of themselves and the world around them.
- A commitment to mindfulness and wellbeing, alongside the recognition of spontaneous, everyday moments where spirituality can be experienced and nurtured.