

SPIRITUALITY

Ofsted 2012 defines spirituality as developing children's;

- beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect from 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 learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences

Spirituality is a very important value for us as a church school community and therefore we feel it would be valuable and helpful for everyone in the school community to have an explanation of what it means to us.

We, as humans, are made up of our physical bodies and the little invisible spark inside us, that makes us, us. Spirituality can be explained as the bit inside that makes us an individual. It is where we develop faith, values and beliefs.

At St. Johns' we use the following images and ideas as a helpful way of defining and developing spirituality

SELF – Mirror moments

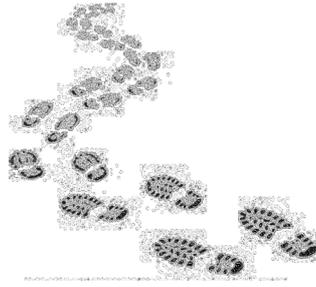


We can have a “mirror moment” to **reflect** and look back at yourself; to consider what would you do/ believe/think/ say in a particular situation. To consider your feelings, learning, actions, relationships.

We explore, **identity and personal values**, develop critical reasoning and deep thinking questions and **develop a personal set of beliefs**.

At St John the Baptist Primary School, we are always looking for opportunities in the school day to think about what we would do in certain situations and how we might be the best person we can be.

OTHERS



We step into others' shoes- which is when explore **other people's points of view, circumstances, lives.....**

This encourages the children to develop **empathy, concern, compassion and respect** for other people which often prompts the children to respond with community support, charitable work or confidence to speak up for others; understanding that there are many ways that we can reach out.

Again this is woven into the curriculum - we may do this using PSHE and RE or when we explore other faiths. We read books about other cultures and situations in English and look at other countries and times in theme work. Our collective worship themes develop our understanding of the responsibility we have to others.

BEAUTY



We can have a “window moment” - where we stop and look out of the window and marvel at and **celebrate the wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity** – whether in nature, technology, art, music, sport, architecture, maths, science, writing or dance etc. etc.

At school, this is woven into the curriculum; we may do this by using our grounds as a source for artwork, science and creative writing, by using photos and video clips to inspire and create a sense of wonder for the world around us and by celebrating people's diverse achievements, both in the school community and beyond.

BEYOND



And finally, we can have a “candle moment” – helping us to explore experiences beyond the everyday where **we search for the meaning in our existence and our place in the greater scheme of things.** – a growing appreciation of the intangible.

At school we may do this through prayer and reflection in worship, P4c discussions – developing critical reasoning and deeper thinking questions.

Our school values are incorporated in our school motto;

‘Living, **loving**, learning with **thankfulness** and **hope**’

We chose love as we believe that it is relationships that unites all other values together. We chose thankfulness and hope as we considered the uncertain world that the children are growing up in to and their need to be able to hopeful in potentially difficult financial times and their need to be thankful of all that is not material.

Our framework of me, other, beauty and beyond helps develop the children’s spirituality and this in turn enhances our values; Loving ourselves, loving others, loving the world, loving God – Being thankful of ourselves – self esteem, thanking others, being thankful for all the world gives us, being thankful to God. – Hope for ourselves, hope for others, hope for the world and hope in God.