



Developing Spirituality Policy

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| Date of most recent review: | January 2022 |
| Date of next review: | January 2026 |
| Member of staff responsible: | Mrs Dugdale |

This policy, which is published on the school website, is informed by Christian Values and has been considered in line with our vision – ‘Caring, Believing, Achieving’.

Language of Spirituality

To talk about spirituality is essentially to talk about something which is beyond words. To make conversations about spirituality more accessible to every member of our school community, Hatherop Primary School has chosen to follow ideas developed by the Education Department at the Dioceses of Gloucester.

The language of spirituality begins from a Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God, like pots made by a potter (Isaiah 64:8). Yet, in life things happen that impact on the physical “pot” of life and create cracks that provide a glimpse of something beyond the tangible. Christians would view this as an opportunity to relate to the Divine Creator God.

Cracks may be caused when something so good and breath-taking happens that the pot expands and cracks – the **wows** of life.

Cracks may happen when something challenging happens and threatens the comfort of everyday – the **ows** of life.

Cracks may also happen in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday – the **nows** of life, when a moment of stillness, a pause or prayer creates a crack in the normal, physical every day.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective worship is the beating heart of Hatherop 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.

Collective worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present (now moments) which are often linked to invitations to pray.

Through daily collective worship, pupils are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They are offered an understanding of being invited to participate in, or

observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible and liturgy and are introduced to different musical traditions.

Opportunities to reflect on the joys of life such as beauty and joy in the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise with the low moments of disappointment or pain. Pupils are given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark seasonal Christian festivals and celebrations in the calendars of other faiths. In this way pupils are offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective worship in Hatherop Primary School is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

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 this school's approach to RE and spirituality.

Every RE lesson includes a period of stillness and reflection, offering pupils a chance to pray or reflect. These periods may be guided with stories of visualisations or may be periods of silence and stillness.

Learning activities in RE provide for the needs of all pupils, offering a safe place to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of being, 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 pupil's ideas of spirituality and the language of joys, lows and highs where appropriate.

For further details refer to Hatherop Primary School's Religious Education Policy and the Church of England's Statement of Entitlement.

Spirituality Within the Curriculum

Hatherop Primary School's Christian vision drives the design of our curriculum and opportunities to use the language of spirituality are incorporated into all areas of the curriculum when appropriate.

Learning activities celebrate the achievements and break-throughs joys of successes in both the work of the pupils and the subject matter that is taught. The lows of difficulty and frustrations are supported and the everyday moments of concentration and being in the present, are encouraged.

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.

The Role of the Head Teacher

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to implement the school's Developing Spirituality policy and to ensure that all staff are aware of the school policy and know how to use the language of spirituality. The Head Teacher reports to the governing body about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

Other related policies

This policy is available on the school website and on request from the Head or the Chair of Governors in hard copy. It should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Teaching RE policy
- Collective Worship Policy