Great Massingham & Harpley CofE Primary Schools Federation

United. Resilient. Respectful.

Spirituality Policy

Policy produced by	Headteacher	
Date policy reviewed and approved	Nov 2025	
Reviewed and approved by	Governing body	
Next review due	Nov 2027	
Published on website	**Yes**	No

The Lord says, 'I will instruct you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.'

Psalm 32:8

OUR VISION & VALUES

The Lord says, 'I will instruct you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.' Psalm 32:8

Inspired by our vision, the schools has three dynamics at the heart of its mission: **Living, Learning & Flourishing together**.

Living – We live as role models and advocate good choices under God's eye
Learning – We learn in all we do with a loving eye upon us
Flourishing – We flourish in the way we go, within our school and into the world beyond

Our five Core Values are: Kindness - Koinonia - Compassion - Responsibility - forgiveness
We follow the Christian Values for Life programme where children focus on one value per half term.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Our Christian character is central to all that we do; our Christian vision and values are embedded in all aspects of school life and we strive to share these with our families and the local community. Due to minimal diversity within our village schools we aim to educate and celebrate the diverse world in which we live, learn and flourish together: living in harmony and peace, learning to develop our God-given talents and flourishing as we grow under the eye of the Lord.

We aim to develop each individual's understanding of spirituality. Alongside our vision and values we teach skills of reflection, empathy and enquiry whilst promoting attitudes of open-mindedness and sensitivity.

Our curriculum, behaviour, collective worship and Religious Education approaches reflect this, as does our environment. We strive to show our distinct Christian character in the welcomes which we offer to all visitors to our school.

We aim to establish the right learning environment to enable the spiritual development of all pupils through the following objectives:
● Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God;
● Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;
● Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them;
● Develop an awareness of and respect for other people's beliefs and faiths and the ability to articulate their own;
● Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);
● Develop strategies to build good mental health;
● Foster self-awareness and encourage pupils to make informed decisions;
● Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life;
● Begin to understand and make sense of their own feelings and emotions around certain encounters and events that occur in their life;
● Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth; ● Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others;
● Encourage curiosity, creativity and imagination;
● Develop the ability to reflect upon experiences of awe, compassion, beauty etc
● Develop a capacity to value the natural world, a sense of awe and wonder and a commitment to care for creation. These objectives will enable the pupils to have a quality of life that encompasses respect, awareness, compassion, curiosity, understanding and relationships that reflect order, reason, balance and integrity within the context of Christian faith.

Legal requirements:
Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 states: The curriculum for a maintained school or maintained nursery school satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which: (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and (b) prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
The SIAMS Schedule (amended September 2021) references spirituality in both the RE and Collective Worship strands but the main focus is part of strand two on Wisdom, Knowledge and

Skills. The Church of England Vision for Education has a core desire for 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) which requires educating the whole person.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT
Great Massingham & Harpley Schools Federation is committed to the principle of equal opportunity for all irrespective of race, religion, gender, language, disability or family background. We believe that equal opportunity is at the heart of good educational practice and challenge any form of discrimination. Our vision and values help to emphasise equal opportunities for all staff and pupils at all times. All staff and governors are responsible for ensuring that we implement this policy.

CONTENT
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
As a school, we define Spirituality as: 'Spirituality is about us being aware of God's ways of being with us and the way our lives can, inspired by Jesus, have a positive effect on others'.
· **Belief**
We aim to develop pupils' personal beliefs, including religious beliefs and foster an appreciation of each individual and shared beliefs on which others base their lives.
· **A Sense of Awe, Wonder and Mystery**
We aim to inspire pupils by enabling them to learn about the natural world or human achievement through our provision of a broad, inspiring and creative curriculum.
· **Experience feelings of transcendence**
We aim to provide opportunities for pupils to develop feelings of belief in the existence of divine being and a feeling of self belief, thus developing inner resources provide the ability to rise above every day experiences.
· **A search for meaning and purpose**
We aim to encourage pupils to reflect on the purpose of life, respond to challenging experiences in life and ask what they can bring to the lives of others whilst developing a sense of purpose and responsibility.
· **Self-Knowledge**
We encourage pupils to develop self-awareness of their thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities and experiences in order to create a growing sense of self-esteem, self-respect and self-responsibility.
· **Relationships**
We encourage pupils to recognise and value the worth of every individual, develop a sense of community and build positive relationships with others.
· **Creativity**
We aim that pupils are able to develop resilience, resourcefulness, clear thinking and problem solving skills whilst enjoying opportunities to express their inner feelings and thoughts through art, design, music, drama, dance and literature.
· **Feelings and Emotions**
We aim that pupils grow in the capacity to be moved by beauty and kindness, hurt by injustice and aggression and develop the ability to recognise and control their emotions and feelings enabling them to become 'emotional literate'.

DEVELOPING SPIRITUALITY

Our distinct and special Christian character is developed and promoted through:

The Environment

· This is seen in the use of the federation logo, indoor and outdoor signage, learning environment, RE displays and displays and installations which promote the Christian character and values of the school.

· The children are given as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed, cherished and protected.

· The school building and outdoor environment provides appropriate spaces for silence, stillness and prayer. **Teaching and Learning and the Curriculum**

· The Christian vision statement and associated values drive the curriculum and aim to reinforce and the curriculum aims promote the values of the school.

· Opportunities for spiritual development are actively planned into the curriculum and encouraged in all areas of school life.

· That children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight are fostered through the creative arts and interactive multi-sensory teaching strategies making use of the outdoor environment and relevant educational visits.

The Behaviour Policies

· The positive behaviour policy and use of the restorative approach enables children to understand justice, forgiveness and compassion.

· Moral development is linked to spiritual development.

Relationships

· Relationships in the school are central to our school family approach and are underpinned by the vision and values. Staff are responsible for modelling these in their day-to-day interactions with children, in order to teach how we treat others.

· Staff support children in independence and help them to learn to live with success and failure

· The promotion of strategies for positive mental health

· Unplanned and spontaneous spiritual opportunities for spiritual development are recognised, acknowledged and/or celebrated by staff and children

Collective Worship

· The collective worship reflects the Christian ethos of the school, celebrates the love of God for every individual, providing opportunities for children to respond and reflect on this.

· An understanding of the Christian concept of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (bible, cross and candle) is nurtured and developed

Religious Education

· Religious Education teaches the traditions and rituals of the Church of England and delivers knowledge and understanding of spirituality from a number of world faith and world view perspectives. It aims to draw parallels between faiths and practices and promote tolerance and understanding.

· The Religious Education provision gives opportunities to listen attentively and observe carefully (using visitors and members of the school community to share beliefs, faiths and experiences), listening with discernment, valuing what is good and worthwhile and making judgements through discussion and exchange of views and ideas

Charitable giving

· Opportunities are given to contribute to the local community and raise money for charitable causes are built into the curriculum and the school year, with an annual focus on the overseas support of a charity focused on one of our 5 Christian values.

MONITORING

The development of spirituality in the school is led by the Executive Headteacher. All teaching staff members have the responsibility to promote and encourage spiritual development with the children, families and community. Staff will receive annual training on the vision, values and how the curriculum might deliver spiritual development. Staff will do this by sharing children's thoughts, comments and responses and sharing of outcomes in the curriculum, including the Religious Education curriculum. Opportunities to share with other schools will be welcomed.

The effectiveness of the distinct Christian character of the school is monitored by the Governing Body.