

Witherley C.E. Primary School



Spirituality Policy

Witherley CE Primary School - Spirituality Policy

At Witherley CE Primary School Spirituality is:

Something that touches us all in a personal way. It is the connections that we make with others and the world around us. It is about awe and wonder, asking big questions, being inspired to look beyond ourselves and to serve and care for others and the world.

School Vision (Intention)

At Witherley Church of England Primary School we value the individuality of all of our children.

We are committed to giving them every opportunity to achieve their full potential underpinned by our Christian ethos. We do this by taking into account children's varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations of all children. Their achievements, attitudes and wellbeing matter which is why we offer them the opportunity to discover and develop the gifts and talents they have in order to '*let their light shine*' (Matthew 5:16).

This policy is designed to ensure that the school promotes the individuality of all of our children irrespective of their ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

Nurturing and Developing Spirituality (Implementation)

Witherley Primary School is a Church of England School that is committed to encouraging the exploration of the Christian Faith and values whilst also respecting the beliefs and values of other faiths. Children's spiritual development is shown by their:

- Beliefs and values
- Sense of awe and wonder
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences

Spirituality has four elements and these are:

- Ourselves
- Others
- The World
- Beyond

As a school, we approach spirituality by:

- **Being curious**
- **Being reflective**

- **Being thoughtful**
- **Being aware of ourselves**
- **Thinking beyond ourselves**
- **Experiencing awe and wonder**

Being curious:

We want to foster a sense of curiosity in our children to enable them to ask purposeful questions as they go through life. We do this in a variety of ways including:

- Adults model curiosity when reviewing learning and exploring something new
- Question led learning
- Asking deep questions
- Providing opportunities to explore and investigate
- Allowing children to ask questions and follow these lines of enquiry
- Questions to ponder and 'I wonder' in worship
- Adapting planning in response to our children

Being reflective:

In a busy and often unpredictable world the ability to reflect is an important life skill. We nurture this by:

- Using big questions to ponder in RE and worship
- Seeking pupil voice
- Allowing children to reach their own compromises in play
- Asking open questions
- Using big questions as a focus for learning in our curriculum
- Having reflection/ prayer areas
- Dedicating time to review learning
- Allowing children to have access to calm spaces
- Assessing to check understanding

Being thoughtful

We see the importance of dedicating time to think. We value it in our curriculum in a number of ways, including:

- Child led responses and questions
- Our school rules
- Allowing children to plan their own outcome choices in their curriculum
- Getting the children to 'prove it' or 'justify' their learning
- Allowing time for children to reach their own conclusion

Being aware of ourselves:

To be truly secure in the world children need to know themselves and understand who they are as an individual. We celebrate and promote this at Witherley through:

- Praise being given that is linked to school rules and values
- The PHSE curriculum design
- Children sharing their own experiences and celebrating them
- Small group support to nurture feeling awareness
- Pride in their learning
- Respecting each other by following our school rules and living out our values

Thinking beyond ourselves:

We want to encourage our children to be courageous advocates for others. They are given the opportunity to do this by:

- Valuing friends and promoting friendships
- Welcoming and working with our families
- Organising charity events
- Having good links with our local church
- Working with our community and having a presence in it
- Showing our school values (especially friendship)
- Learning about the wider world
- Learning about other's beliefs and perspectives
- Being actively involved in Forest School and learning about sustainability
- Exploring British Values as part of our everyday life

Experiencing awe and wonder:

The magical moments in childhood when children are amazed and captivated give children the value of life in all its fullness. Not all awe and wonder can be planned, sometimes it's in the magic of a snowy day, a rainbow in the sky and the natural world in all its glory. We believe we can enhance the awe and wonder children experience at school by:

- Planning inspiring learning opportunities in response of the needs of our children
- Hooks to stimulate learning
- Using technology to offer wider experiences
- Offer real life experiences (butterflies, chicks, visitors and trips)
- Using big questions in R.E.
- Learning questions starting each theme
- Sharing in worship and celebration and inspiring one another
- Experiencing nature in our Forest School

Aims (Impact)

By the time our children leave Witherley in year 6 we aim to have developed within them:

- A sense of self awareness, confidence, sense of worth, an understanding and application of personal values and beliefs, the ability to handle feelings and personal creativity.
- An openness and awareness of differences, empathy and an awareness of their own place within the wider group and community.
- A sense of awe and wonder. An appreciation of the beauty and variety of the world and beyond.
- An awareness and ability to reflect on and discuss issues concerning life, death and the world around us.