

St John's Highbury Vale CE Primary School



'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13

Spirituality Policy

**Ratified: January 2026
Review Date: January 2029**

At the heart of our school vision is a desire for an authentic and life-giving relationship with ourselves, one another, our world, and with God. We believe that it is through Christ who gives us the strength, all can achieve within a learning environment where every child is valued as a unique individual created in the image of God, and where teaching and learning is of consistently high standard.

STJHV Statement of Intent

St John's Highbury Vale in Islington is committed to providing a nurturing and inspiring environment where every child is empowered to reach their full potential. Grounded in our Christian ethos and guided by our values, we strive to create a vibrant and dynamic educational experience that prepares our pupils to lead fulfilling lives and contribute positively to society.

Spirituality Policy and Statement

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

This verse shapes our belief that every child is precious, capable and deeply loved by God. Spiritual development is woven through every aspect of school life and supports each child to flourish in character, confidence and hope.

Our Vision for Education

At the heart of our school vision is a desire for an authentic and life-giving relationship with one another and with God. We believe that it is through Christ, who gives us strength, that all can achieve within a learning environment where every child is valued as a unique individual, created in the image of God, and where teaching and learning is of a consistently high standard.

Spiritual development is a core thread that runs through our school and is vital for the flourishing of all within our community. As reflected in Acts 17:28, *"In Him we live and move and have our being"*, becoming aware of our spirituality is a lifelong journey. We seek to support every child and adult at St John's to move forward on that journey with confidence, curiosity and hope.

What We Mean by Spirituality

At St John's, spirituality is about helping children explore meaning, purpose and connection in ways that are invitational, inclusive and deeply respectful of all.

Our understanding of spirituality is rooted in four interconnected strands:

1. Personal Growth

Children develop a sense of identity, emotional understanding and inner confidence. They are supported to recognise and reflect on their feelings, strengths and values through opportunities such as quiet reflection, journalling, prayer, stillness and emotional literacy strategies including Zones of Regulation.

2. Relationships and Community

Children learn to live with kindness, empathy, compassion and forgiveness. Through PSHE, restorative approaches, teamwork and Collective Worship, pupils develop respect for others and an understanding of what it means to belong to a loving, diverse community.

3. Appreciating the World

Children are encouraged to notice awe, beauty, creativity and wonder in daily life. This is experienced through art, music, storytelling, science, outdoor learning and our Naturehood programme, fostering gratitude and a sense of responsibility for God's creation.

4. Exploring Meaning and Big Questions

Children are invited—never pressured—to reflect on life's mysteries and deeper questions about faith, purpose and hope. This happens through RE, discussion, imagination, reflective spaces and moments of silence and stillness.

Aims of Spiritual Development

Our aim is to establish a learning environment that enables the spiritual flourishing of all pupils. Through our approach, children will:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as individuals made in the image of God
- Develop understanding of Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them
- Learn about the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith
- Develop respect for other beliefs and worldviews and the confidence to articulate their own
- Foster self-awareness and informed decision-making
- Understand what it means to belong to and serve a community
- Develop language and skills to reflect on big questions, awe, beauty, compassion and mystery
- Begin to make sense of their own emotions and experiences, including disappointment, failure and loss
- Be encouraged to show curiosity, creativity and imagination

These aims support children in developing a quality of life rooted in respect, compassion, curiosity, integrity and hope within a Christian context.

Christian Vision and Values

Our spirituality is expressed through our Christian vision and six associated values, which shape teaching, learning and relationships across the school year:

- Friendship
- Respect
- Wisdom
- Forgiveness
- Love
- Courage

Teaching and Learning

Spiritual development is woven through the whole curriculum and wider school life. Opportunities are both planned and responsive, recognising moments of spontaneous wonder and reflection.

Key features include:

- Collective Worship that is invitational, inclusive and reflective
- RE that explores big questions and a range of beliefs and worldviews
- PSHE and Relationships Education supporting identity, empathy and responsibility
- Creative arts enabling expression and reflection
- Outdoor learning and Naturehood fostering awe, curiosity and stewardship
- Opportunities for silence, stillness and prayer
- Learning to live with both success and failure
- Strong links between moral and spiritual development

All provision is made accessible to every child, including those with SEND, and takes account of children's religious and cultural backgrounds.

Approaches to Spiritual Development

Across all areas of school life, we aim to:

- Foster imagination, insight and empathy
- Provide safe spaces for children to explore and express feelings
- Encourage reflection, stillness and prayer
- Enable visits to places of worship
- Share experiences that foster hope, joy and encouragement
- Support children in making links between faith, school life and the wider world
- Create environments that invite thinking, wondering and reflection

Windows, Mirrors and Doors

- **Windows:** Opportunities to see the world in new ways and encounter awe and wonder
- **Mirrors:** Opportunities to reflect on experiences and big questions
- **Doors:** Opportunities to respond creatively and live out emerging values and beliefs

Inclusion

Spirituality belongs to every child, regardless of background or belief. Our approach is:

- **Invitational** – never imposed
- **Inclusive** – accessible to all
- **Inspiring** – encouraging curiosity, awe and imagination

Working with Families

We recognise that children often explore deep questions at home as well as at school. We work in partnership with families to nurture these moments, supporting children as they grow in wisdom, dignity, hope and love.

Spiritual Flourishing of Adults

In line with the SIAMS framework, we are committed to supporting the spiritual flourishing of adults within our community. Staff meetings, CPD, Collective Worship, church services and retreats are planned with this intention.

Monitoring and Evaluation

While spiritual development cannot be measured, opportunities for spiritual growth are monitored through:

- Observing and listening to children
- Discussion at staff and governor meetings
- Reviewing pupils' work and reflective activities
- Staff induction and training
- Inclusion within the SEF
- Regular policy review