



Carlton VC Church of England Primary School

Spirituality Policy 2026-2027

'I am the vine, you are the branches; those that abide in me and I in them will bear much fruit' (John 15:5)

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Date:

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Contents

1. Rationale
2. Definition of Spirituality
3. Our Christian Vision and School Motto
4. Our Core Christian Values and Spirituality
 - 4.1 Compassion
 - 4.2 Collaboration
 - 4.3 Creativity
 - 4.4 Community
5. How We Nurture Spirituality at Carlton C of E Primary School
 - 5.1 Collective Worship
 - 5.2 Curriculum
 - 5.3 School Environment
 - 5.4 Relationships and Ethos
6. Inclusion and Respect
7. Impact on Pupils and the School Community
8. Monitoring and Review
9. Conclusion

1. Rationale

At Carlton Church of England Primary School, spirituality is at the heart of our vision, ethos and daily life. As a Church school, we seek to nurture the whole child - academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually - so that every individual can flourish and *bear much fruit*.

Our school motto,

"I am the vine, you are the branches; those that abide in me and I in them will bear much fruit" (John 15:5),

guides our understanding of spirituality. It reminds us that we are deeply connected - to God, to one another and to the world - and that through these connections we grow, reflect and thrive.

2. Definition of Spirituality

At Carlton C of E Primary School, we believe spirituality is an individual and personal experience - one that is felt within.

We believe that children can understand the definition of spirituality in:

- A sense of **awe and wonder** at the world around us
- Moments of **stillness, reflection and mindfulness**
- An awareness of **self, others and God**
- A feeling of **gratitude** and appreciation
- A space to ask **big questions** about life, meaning and purpose
- An understanding of connection - like branches growing from a shared vine

We recognise that spirituality cannot be forced or measured. Instead, it is **invited, nurtured and respected**, allowing each child and adult to explore it in their own way.

3. Our Christian Values and Spirituality

Our approach to spirituality is rooted in our four core Christian values:

Compassion

Compassion runs through all aspects of school life. We encourage children to:

- Show kindness, empathy and understanding
- Care for others, themselves and the wider world
- Reflect on how their actions affect others

Collaboration

Spirituality grows through shared experiences. We create opportunities for:

- Learning together
- Listening to different viewpoints
- Respectful discussion and reflection

Creativity

We believe creativity is a powerful expression of spirituality. Children are encouraged to:

- Express thoughts and feelings through art, music, drama and writing
- Explore imagination and curiosity
- Reflect creatively on their experiences and beliefs

Community

As branches of the same vine, we belong to one another. Spirituality is nurtured through:

- A strong sense of belonging
- Respect for diversity and individuality
- Connections with the church, local community and global family

4. How We Nurture Spirituality

Spirituality is woven through all areas of school life, including:

Collective Worship

- Opportunities for stillness, reflection and prayer
- Moments of awe, wonder and questioning
- Links to Christian values and the teachings of Jesus

Curriculum

- Big questions explored in RE, PSHE and across the wider curriculum
- Opportunities to reflect on learning, emotions and experiences
- Time to pause, wonder and appreciate the world

The School Environment

- Calm and reflective spaces indoors and outdoors
- Displays that celebrate creativity, gratitude and reflection
- Opportunities to engage with nature and beauty

Relationships and Ethos

- A culture of respect, care and inclusion
- Adults modelling reflection, gratitude and compassion
- Listening to children's thoughts, feelings and spiritual insights

5. Inclusion and Respect

We recognise that spirituality means different things to different people. Our approach is:

- **Inclusive** of all faiths and worldviews
- **Respectful** of individual beliefs and experiences
- **Supportive** of personal reflection rather than prescribed responses

Every child and adult is valued as part of an unique branch of our school community.

6. Impact

Through a strong focus on spirituality, we aim for children to:

- Develop self-awareness and emotional understanding
- Show compassion and empathy towards others
- Appreciate beauty, wonder and creativity
- Feel connected to their community and the wider world
- Grow in confidence to reflect, question and express themselves

7. Conclusion

At Carlton Church of England Primary School, spirituality is not a single moment but a **way of being**. Rooted in our Christian vision and values, we provide opportunities for every child to grow, reflect and flourish - connected to God, to one another and to the world - so that together, we may *bear much fruit*.