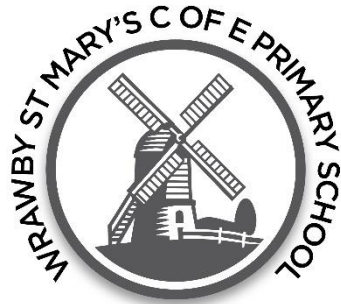




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Wrawby St Mary's CE Primary School

Spirituality Policy

Created: February 2025

Review Date: February 2028

Our School Vision

At Wrawby St Mary's Primary School, we strive for a full life in mind, body, heart and spirit to plan, prosper and give hope and a future to all. We believe in a journey of education enabling every child to feel love, challenge and excitement as they access skills to build future pioneers and leaders.

Our school is a beacon of hope and sign of the kingdom.

'Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.' Romans 5:5

School Statement on 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, Wrawby St Mary's CE Primary School has chosen to follow ideas developed by the Education Department at the Diocese of Gloucester.

This 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 can 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 everyday.

In these special moments there is a spiritual opportunity. Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with golden joinery or glue, creates something that has been broken into something even more beautiful. Using this metaphor, the **wows**, **ows** and **nows** of life offer the possibility of cracks that are filled with gold and make the pot even more beautiful. The gold in the cracks reflect a little of the wonder of spirituality.

Wrawby St Mary's CE Primary School uses this language and the concepts of **wows**, **ows** and **nows**. These are used to explore relationships with:

- ourselves
- others
- the wider natural world and beyond
- and offering the invitation to relate to God

Organisation

Opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of all members of our school community are found throughout every aspect of our school life. We have identified specific areas which contribute to spiritual growth: collective worship, the curriculum – including RE – and the general ethos of the school.

We support the whole school community to share this responsibility and to develop the shared language of spirituality. Opportunities are available for all to develop spiritually in our supportive and nurturing school inspired by our vision and lived out through our Christian values.

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the beating heart of Wrawby St Mary's; 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 worship by 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 **wows** of life such as beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise with the **ow** 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 Wrawby St Mary's 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.

Learning activities in RE provide for the needs of all pupils, offering a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, 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 pupils' ideas of spirituality and the language of **wows**, **ows** and **nows** where appropriate.

For further details, please refer to The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement.

Spirituality within the Curriculum

At Wrawby St Mary's we have designed a curriculum that is bespoke to our school, our pupils and our context. Our vision is highlighted throughout the curriculum as we use the theme of pioneers and leaders to drive forward learning and extra-curricular experiences for our pupils. We have identified key areas of the curriculum where links to spirituality and spiritual development are found.

Drawing on the language of **ows**, **wows** and **nows**, conversations around spirituality will be included in the classroom teaching when appropriate from Reception to Year 6.

To enhance curriculum provision, we ensure that pupils all have regular opportunities to go on visits and welcome visitors into school. We work with mental wellbeing agencies to develop mindfulness within the pupils and staff through planned 'wellbeing afternoons' throughout the year. These all give pupils the opportunity for **wow** moments as they encounter new places and knowledge, and **now** moments as we are still in ourselves and focus on being in the present.

Spirituality within the Ethos of the Daily Life in School

In Wrawby St Mary's we view spiritual growth as becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. These opportunities happen throughout each and every day as children deal with delight, disappointment and the chance to be present with themselves.

For this reason, every member of the school community, including lunchtime staff and administrative staff are familiar with the school's shared language of spirituality and will respond to pupils appropriately. Our Positive Relationships (Behaviour) Policy focuses on the child, not the behaviour, and encourages pupils to reflect on incidents (**ow** moments) and reflect on what we can learn through them.

Throughout the daily life of the school, including lunch times and playtimes, pupils know that their references to **wows**, **ows** and **nows** will be heard and taken seriously. They will be encouraged to reflect on these experiences and be comfortable about talking about the golden glue of spirituality.

Roles and Responsibilities

Recognising there are opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners in every aspect of our school life, every member of our staff team is committed to support this spiritual growth wherever appropriate.

Mr Brown, the Headteacher, is responsible for supporting and leading spiritual development in our school, including monitoring opportunities for spiritual growth in collective worship, the whole curriculum (including RE) and the general ethos of the school within daily life.

This role includes:

- Ensuring personal knowledge and expertise are kept up to date by participating in CPD and shared good practice
- Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary
- Ensuring all staff are familiar with the shared language of spirituality
- Acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary
- Monitoring the opportunities for spiritual growth through learning walks and pupil/staff voice
- Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process

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. Staff who are new to Wrawby St Mary's will receive training and support from the staff member identified as leading on spirituality.