



Pamphill CE VC First School

Pamphill Church of England First School

Spiritual Development Policy

Biblical Vision:

*“Shine like stars in the sky as we hold onto the word of life.”
(Philippians 2:15)*

1. Introduction

At Pamphill Church of England First School, we are proud to be a caring and nurturing community at the heart of our local area, where everyone is supported to grow with confidence and develop the skills and knowledge needed for the next steps in their journey.

Our vision, rooted in Philippians 2:15, calls us to **shine like stars**—to live with faith, integrity, and hope as we hold onto the word of life.

Guided by our core Christian values of **Love, Courage, and Inspiration**, alongside our learning values of **Respect, Engagement, and Readiness**, we aim to foster a school environment where all members of our community flourish academically, socially, and spiritually.

2. Theological Foundation

Our Christian vision underpins all aspects of school life and shapes our understanding of spirituality. The verse from Philippians encourages us to reflect God’s light in our daily lives, enabling children and adults to live out their faith through love and service.

Spiritual development at Pamphill is rooted in the understanding that every person is made in the image of God and has infinite worth. It encompasses the whole child — body, mind, and spirit — and supports their growth as unique individuals, created and loved by God.

3. Definition of Spirituality

At Pamphill, we describe spirituality as:

“A growing awareness of God, ourselves, others, and the world around us — expressed through curiosity, wonder, reflection, and a search for meaning and purpose.”

Spiritual development involves enabling children to:

- Reflect on life’s big questions and mysteries;
Develop empathy, compassion, and respect for others;



- Experience awe and wonder in God's creation;
- Explore their own beliefs, values, and purpose;
- Recognise the presence of God in everyday life.

4. Aims and Objectives

Our aim is to establish an environment in which every child's spiritual development is nurtured through the following objectives:

1. **Identity and Value** – Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and worth as children made in the image of God.
2. **Understanding of Faith** – Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of our Church school and the Christian beliefs that underpin it.
3. **Core Christian Values** – Explore and apply the school's values of *Love, Courage, and Inspiration* within learning and relationships.
4. **Respect for Others** – Develop respect for the beliefs and faiths of others, with the ability to articulate their own.
5. **Community and Service** – Understand what it means to belong to a community and to use one's gifts and talents in service to others.
6. **Mental Health and Wellbeing** – Build strategies for good mental health through reflection, gratitude, and a sense of purpose.
7. **Self-Awareness** – Foster self-awareness and informed decision-making based on moral and spiritual reflection.
8. **Curiosity and Creativity** – Encourage curiosity, imagination, and creativity as pathways to understanding.
9. **Resilience and Growth** – Recognise that disappointment, failure, and loss can be opportunities for spiritual growth.
10. **Appreciation of Diversity** – Value difference and diversity within God's creation.
11. **Awe and Wonder** – Develop the capacity to experience awe, beauty, and wonder through nature, art, music, and the creative world.
12. **Environmental Stewardship** – Cultivate a sense of responsibility to care for creation as a gift from God.



5. Implementation Through Teaching and Learning

Spiritual development is embedded across all aspects of school life and curriculum delivery. We ensure that:

- The **school's Christian vision and values** drive the curriculum and the wider life of the school.
- **Planned and spontaneous opportunities** for spiritual reflection are recognised, encouraged, and celebrated.
- **Collective Worship** offers opportunities for reflection, prayer, and response to God's love for each person.
- **Religious Education (RE)** provides understanding of Christianity and other world faiths, exploring spirituality through diverse beliefs and perspectives.
- **The creative arts, storytelling, outdoor learning, and the natural environment** are used to foster imagination, empathy, and awe.
- **Spaces for stillness and prayer** are provided both indoors and outdoors.
- **Listening, reflection, and discernment** are encouraged through discussion, journaling, and creative expression.
- **Spiritual moments** within everyday experiences are acknowledged and valued by staff and pupils.
- **Wellbeing and resilience** are supported through opportunities for reflection, gratitude, and belonging.

6. Approaches to Spiritual Development

Staff actively seek opportunities to nurture spirituality through:

- Encouraging imagination, insight, and empathy;
- Allowing children to explore and express feelings in a safe and inclusive environment;
- Providing opportunities for stillness, prayer, and silence;
- Fostering relationships based on **Love, Courage, and Inspiration**;
- Connecting Biblical teaching with children's lived experience;
- Encouraging hope, joy, and reassurance through positive relationships and reflection;



- Providing time and space for reflection and spiritual curiosity.

7. The Four Aspects of Spirituality

Aspect	Focus	Spiritual Learning Intent
Self	Awareness of the inner self and personal identity	Reflecting on who I am, my beliefs, values, and purpose as a child of God.
Others	Relationships and community	Understanding empathy, compassion, and respect in how I relate to others.
World	Appreciation of creation and creativity	Experiencing awe and wonder, recognising God's presence in the natural world and human creativity.
Beyond	The transcendent and the divine	Exploring questions of meaning, purpose, and faith; developing a sense of connection with God.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

Although spiritual growth cannot be measured in a quantitative way, we monitor and evaluate provision through:

- Observation of teaching and learning;
- Listening to children's reflections and discussions;
- Evidence from RE and reflective work;
- Feedback from pupils, staff, and governors;
- Inclusion within the school's SEF and SIAMS self-evaluation;
- CPD and staff training to ensure a shared understanding of spirituality;
- Sharing good practice across the Wimborne Academy Trust and the Diocese.



9. Links with Mental Health and Wellbeing

Spiritual wellbeing contributes directly to positive mental health. The Royal College of Psychiatrists highlights the benefits of spirituality in building resilience, hope, and meaning.

At Pamphill, we recognise that spirituality exists both within and beyond formal religion. We aim to provide inclusive opportunities for all children and adults to explore spirituality as a source of comfort, reflection, and connection — supporting wellbeing across our community.

10. Review and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if required, to ensure that it continues to reflect the school's Christian vision, SIAMS framework, and current educational guidance.

Next Review Date: October 2026