

Spirituality at Kirkby la Thorpe: A Journey of Discovery and Reflection

At Kirkby la Thorpe, spirituality is not just a concept—it's a lived experience woven into the fabric of our school. Our journey began with a simple yet profound question:

What does spirituality mean to us?

To answer this, we engaged in a collaborative exploration with our staff. Through brainstorming sessions, we shared words, thoughts, and feelings that resonated with spirituality. It quickly became evident that spirituality is deeply personal, shaped by our individual experiences and beliefs. From this rich tapestry of perspectives, we crafted a definition that would form the foundation of our approach.



Bringing Spirituality to Life for Children

Once we had a shared language, our next challenge was translating this abstract concept into something meaningful for our pupils. We delved into research, drawing upon various interpretations of spiritual development in the classroom. Inspired by these insights, we introduced the concept of Windows, Mirrors, and Doors to our students.

- Windows allowed children to look out and gain new perspectives on the world around them.
- Mirrors helped them reflect on their own beliefs, values, and experiences.
- Doors encouraged them to step into action, applying their reflections in their daily lives.

From this foundation, we developed our Spirituality Policy, outlining how spiritual moments could be recognised and nurtured within our school. Classroom displays were created, inviting children to add their reflections and experiences, making spirituality an interactive and evolving part of their learning environment.





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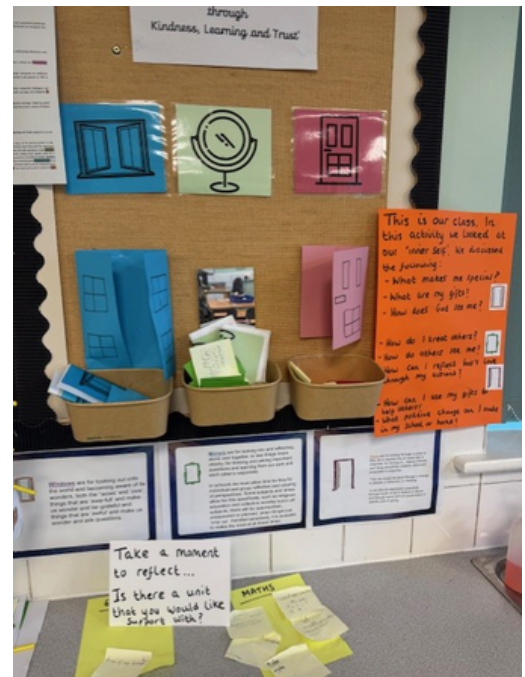
Embedding Spirituality Across the Curriculum

To deepen this work, we explored how spirituality could be meaningfully embedded across subjects. Subject leaders developed progressive approaches for each phase, ensuring staff were aware of when spiritual moments might naturally occur within their teaching. Moving forward, we are working towards deliberately planning for these moments, making them an integral part of our curriculum.

We also introduced Thought and Prayer Baskets in classrooms, providing children with a space to pause, reflect, and pray, should they wish. This has fostered a culture of mindfulness and inner exploration, allowing pupils to connect with their thoughts and emotions in a structured way.

A Whole-School Approach to Spiritual Growth

A significant milestone in our journey was our Spirituality Afternoon, where children engaged in activities designed to explore their inner and outer selves. They reflected on their place in the world, their personal values, and how they could contribute positively to their communities. This event reinforced our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically capable but also spiritually aware. Beyond the classroom, we have mapped out wider experiences that may inspire spiritual moments across school life—whether through school trips, visiting speakers, storytelling, or even lunchtime choices. These moments provide opportunities for children to pause, wonder, and connect with something greater than themselves.



Looking Forward

Our journey in developing spirituality at Kirkby la Thorpe is ongoing. As we continue to refine our approach, we are excited to see how these experiences shape our students' personal growth and understanding of the world. By embedding spirituality into our daily practices, we aim to create an environment where children feel a deep sense of purpose, curiosity, and connection. At Kirkby la Thorpe, spirituality is not confined to a lesson—it is a way of seeing, feeling, and experiencing the world. And as our journey continues, we look forward to discovering new ways to nurture this essential part of our children's education.

