



“Inspiring all to soar to new heights.”

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.”

Isaiah 40:31

Challenge ■ Creativity ■ Collaboration ■ Critical Thinking ■ Courage

Downham C of E Primary School

Spirituality Policy

September 2026

Staff consulted: September 2026

Ratified by the Governing Body: Chair's Action

Review Date: *Annual review*

Downham Church of England Primary School Spirituality Policy

Rationale

At Downham Church of England Primary School, spirituality is at the heart of who we are and what we do. We believe that every child and adult is a unique and valued individual, created in the image of God. Spirituality is not limited to religious belief but is a vital part of personal development, shaping our sense of identity, purpose, and relationships. We support our pupils in exploring life's big questions, developing a sense of awe and wonder, and recognising the importance of reflection, compassion, and respect for others.

Our school environment, curriculum, and worship life provide rich opportunities for spiritual growth. Our core values – forgiveness, compassion, thankfulness, courage, community, and truthfulness – guide how we live and learn together. These values are not only taught but are also modelled and celebrated throughout the school year, helping our children to flourish both individually and as part of a caring, connected community.

Aims

Through this policy, we aim to:

- Recognise and support the spiritual development of every child and adult.
- Embed opportunities for reflection, stillness, and wonder in the life of the school.
- Encourage curiosity about the world and promote a sense of meaning and purpose.
- Foster a Christian ethos that enables children to explore faith, values, and beliefs.
- Ensure spirituality is evident in relationships, the curriculum, worship, and the wider life of the school.
- Celebrate our Church of England foundation, while welcoming all members of our diverse school community

Spirituality is nurtured in many ways across the school, including:

- Daily acts of worship provide opportunities for reflection, prayer, celebration, and encounter with Christian teachings.
- Worship draws on our Bible verse – “With God, all things are possible” – to encourage faith, resilience, and hope.

Defining Spirituality

Spirituality at Downham is understood as: A sense of self: awareness of one's thoughts, feelings, hopes, and emotions.

A sense of others: empathy, compassion, and an understanding of our shared humanity.

A sense of the world and beauty: noticing awe and wonder in nature, art, music, and human achievement.

A sense of God or the divine: reflecting on faith, belief, prayer, and the presence of God in life.

Our Definition

At Downham C of E Primary School, we nourish minds and touch hearts, helping children connect with themselves, others, and the world. We treasure moments of stillness, wonder, and freedom – where children can simply be. In this space to explore and express their true selves, they grow not just as learner, but as whole human beings. It's a kind of learning that lives in the moment and lasts a lifetime.

Curriculum

- All subject areas offer spiritual insight: from exploring moral dilemmas in English to awe in science and creation in art and music.
- RE, especially, invites children to explore Christianity and other world faiths with curiosity and respect and to reflect on the impact it has on them.

Personal and Social Development

- We encourage self-awareness, emotional literacy, and respectful dialogue.
- Through PSHE and pastoral care, children are supported in making meaning of their experiences.

Spirituality within our school community is through:

- Reflection is like looking in a mirror and having time to reflect on the learning;
- Learning is like looking through a window to see new horizons;
- Responding is like going through a door considering how the learning will have an impact on yourself or your behaviour.
- Beyond is taking our learning and experiences and linking them to our own lives.

Inclusivity and Respect

As a Church of England school, we welcome children and families of all faiths and none. Spiritual development is not imposed but invited. We create a safe, inclusive space where every child is encouraged to ask questions, explore beliefs, and express their spirituality freely and respectfully.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Spiritual development is regularly reviewed through:

- Observations of worship and classroom practice.
- Pupil voice and reflection journals.
- Staff discussions and professional development.
- Feedback from governors and the wider school community.

Conclusion

At Downham, spirituality is a living thread running through all aspects of school life. It enables our children not only to *believe*, *achieve*, and *succeed* – but to grow into thoughtful, caring, and resilient individuals within God's family.

