



Spirituality Policy

Policy owner	CEO
Policy approved by	Vision & Values Committee
Policy approved	18 June 2025
Review frequency	3 years
Policy next approved	June 2028

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to foster an environment where pupils can explore, grow, and express their spiritual beliefs in a supportive and respectful atmosphere. This policy aims to promote the holistic development of each child, focusing on their spiritual, emotional, and moral growth, in line with the school's values of respect, kindness, and responsibility.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, students, volunteers, and parents at the St Barnabas Multi Academy Trust.

Definition

St Barnabas Multi Academy Trust defines spirituality as something unseen; something we feel inside about our purpose and place in life. It is about awe and wonder of the world in which we live, asking questions, drawing inspiration from and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of ourselves. We believe spirituality is not the same as having a religion or faith; a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith.

When explaining spirituality to our pupils we talk about:

- A sense of awe and wonder

Children are inquisitive. We nurture their curiosity, guiding them to look at the world, with awe and wonder. We encourage them to ask 'big questions' about life, religion, nature, and curriculum subjects that interest them.

- Care for nature and living things

We provide many opportunities for children to learn about nature and the role they play in protecting our world. We regularly visit wild and natural spaces. Our curriculum ensures children learn about the world and how they can care for living things.

- Wanting to love and be loved

Our Trust and schools are very caring places. We pride ourselves on our ethos of family. Through our Bring Friendship! Christian values, we teach children to care for friends, family and community. Indeed, our curriculum includes learning about those we love and who love us.

Key Spirituality Models

Within St Barnabas Trust we recognise that all of our schools have unique qualities and serve different communities. Therefore, schools have the agency to choose from one of the models below to implement within their schools.

- Windows, mirror, doors

→ Windows - to look at, to wonder, Wow! Look at that!

→ Mirrors - to reflect, to look in at our own experiences.

→ Doors - going out with those thoughts and ideas and putting them into action.

- Wows, ows and nows
 - Wows - awe and wonder moments
 - Ows - something that is difficult to watch, a relationship, a sadness
 - Nows - being in the present moment.
- In, out, up
 - In - hope for ourselves
 - Out - the needs of others, agents of change, courageous advocacy
 - Up - beyond, God
- SOBB
 - Self
 - Others
 - Beauty
 - Beyond

Key Principles

1. **Respect for Diversity**
We respect and celebrate the diverse spiritual beliefs and practices of all pupils, staff, and families. This diversity enriches our school community, and we encourage openness, tolerance, and dialogue about spirituality in a way that fosters mutual understanding.
2. **Nurturing Spiritual Development**
We believe that spirituality is a fundamental aspect of human development and should be nurtured in children. Spiritual growth is not confined to religious education but is an integral part of daily life, where children learn to develop a sense of wonder, empathy, and compassion for others and the world around them.
3. **A Safe and Inclusive Environment**
Our school aims to provide a safe, inclusive, and caring environment where students feel comfortable to explore and express their spiritual thoughts, beliefs, and questions. We will encourage curiosity, reflection, and creativity in spiritual matters and promote kindness, forgiveness, and respect in all aspects of school life.
4. **Connection to Faith and Values**
For pupils who follow a particular faith, we aim to support their spiritual practices in a way that is respectful of the school's ethos. We also encourage all students to develop strong moral values such as honesty, integrity, respect, and empathy, which are central to spiritual well-being.
5. **Encouraging Reflection and Mindfulness**
Pupils will be encouraged to engage in reflective activities such as mindfulness and quiet moments for personal reflection. This helps children become more aware of their inner selves, their relationships with others, and their connection to the broader world.
6. **Parental Involvement**
We recognise the important role that parents play in supporting their child's spiritual development. We will foster strong relationships with parents and encourage open communication regarding the spiritual aspects of their child's education.

7. Religious Education and Spiritual Learning

Religious education at St Barnabas Trust provides an opportunity for students to learn about different faiths and spiritual traditions. This subject will be taught with sensitivity, aiming to build knowledge and respect for a range of religious beliefs while emphasizing the shared values that unite people globally.

Implementation Strategies

1. Daily Practices

- Begin each school day with a brief moment of reflection, prayer, or a positive affirmation.
- Encourage acts of kindness and service among students.

2. Daily Act of Worship, Assembly and Celebration of Diversity

- Organise Daily Acts of Worship that celebrate spiritual holidays, special cultural days, and global events.
- Promote inclusive activities where students can share their spiritual traditions, stories, and values.
- Engagement with key awareness days.

3. Curriculum Integration

- Integrate spirituality and moral development across subjects, encouraging empathy, respect, and understanding in class discussions and activities.
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in community service and contribute positively to the school and local community.

4. Staff Training

- Provide staff training on spiritual development and inclusive teaching practices to ensure that every child's spiritual growth is supported.
- Ensure staff have the support to ensure spiritual moments are planned into lessons across the curriculum.
- Equip staff with the skills to facilitate discussions on spirituality with sensitivity and respect.

5. Support and Guidance

- Provide support through pastoral care, where students can seek guidance or talk about their spiritual concerns.
- Encourage peer support through buddy systems or small group discussions to create a sense of community.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of this policy will be monitored through:

- Regular feedback from pupils, parents, governors and staff.
- Observing how spiritual growth is incorporated into daily school life.
- Annual review of the school's spirituality activities and religious education program to ensure they remain relevant and inclusive.

Conclusion

At St Barnabas Trust, we believe that nurturing the spiritual development of children is essential to their overall well-being and growth. By encouraging a sense of wonder, respect, and empathy, we help our students develop into thoughtful, compassionate individuals who value and respect both their own beliefs and those of others.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years.