



Trinity Academy St Edward's

Policy:	Spirituality Policy
Date of review:	March 2024
Date of next review:	July 2027
Lead professional:	Principal
Status:	Non-Statutory

What is our unique understanding of spirituality?

At Trinity Academy St Edward's, we believe that spirituality concerns a person's relationship with themselves, with others, with the 'other' (something greater than themselves, possibly divine) and with the world.

We believe that it is vital that all adults in the academy also see the need to develop their own spirituality, both for their own development and wellbeing and so that they can effectively support and help our students and each other.

The four elements of spirituality consist of:

Self

- Awareness of feelings; ability to reflect and express
- Awareness of our uniqueness; happiness with who we are
- Awareness of our gifts
- Gratitude for the things we have and the person we are
- Exploration of personal faith
- Development of imagination and creativity.

Others

- Empathy and understanding; respect, tolerance
- To love and be loved (loving your neighbour)
- Making a difference (using our gifts and resources to serve others).

Encountering/experiencing God (having a sense of what lies beyond the material/physical)

- Ability to formulate and discuss the 'Big Questions' (e.g. about life, death, suffering, nature of God)
- Opportunities for prayer and reflection
- Connecting with God collectively and individually each day.

The World

- Making sense of the world and our place within it
- Using our gifts and resources to serve the wider world
- Developing a sense of awe and wonder
- Developing a sense of responsibility towards the environment and wider world
- Enjoying the miracles of everyday life
- Taking time for what really matters
- Appreciating beauty in art, music, nature.

We believe that spiritually developed students:

- Love and accept themselves and enjoy good relationships with each other
- Take an interest and delight in the world around them
- Are open to what lies beyond the material (this may manifest itself in faith/belief in God)
- Are able to express and understand feelings, they have a strong moral sense and a love of what is good
- Are able to enjoy quiet and stillness, they possess an active imagination, and show joy in creativity and discovering new skills.

To develop a strong sense of spirituality in all of our students, we aim to:

- Have regular time in the day for quiet and reflection
- Provide many opportunities for creativity and using the imagination
- Value relaxation/play opportunities for all students
- Ensuring invitational opportunities for prayer, both collectively and individually. This can take many forms but includes being thankful and understanding when apologies need to be made.
- Provide frequent opportunities for students to explore, express and share their feelings
- Constantly reaffirm the importance of relationships. How we talk to and relate with each other is fundamental
- Provide opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms, and appreciate the connections and unity in the world
- Encourage each other to admit mistakes and to apologise when necessary. Recognising and owning up to faults is an important healing and redemptive process.
- Encourage students to show kindness, care and compassion, and to express these in practical ways (e.g. how we treat each other every day; charitable works; looking after our environment)
- Explore the 'Big Questions' – particularly through RS, form time and the various student leader programmes. We also use Votes for Schools to discuss and debate key topics and current news
- Read often to children and give them opportunities to discuss and reflect. This includes both secular and religious texts, in particular the Bible. Biblical texts will be read and discussed in RE lessons. Time for quiet reading is allocated to students once a week.

Within the distinctive character of the Church of England education, spiritual and moral development is intimately connected with, though not identical to, religious education, collective worship, private prayer and liturgies. Spiritual and moral development is promoted through all the subjects of the curriculum and throughout the life of the school. Our mission at Trinity Academy St Edward's allows us to recognise the importance of helping our students, each in their unique way, to think, appreciate, question, struggle, suffer, wonder, love, reflect and, indeed, work.

As a Church of England school Religious Education is enhanced by the following:

Daily Act of Worship

Whenever students meet, be it with their form tutor, in Collective Worship or in assembly, it ends with our academy prayer and time to reflect upon the worship theme for the week. We also gather for liturgical celebrations and moments of remembrance throughout the year. Our planned programme for Collective Worship links to our School Core Values and British Values as well as key Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural events.

Chaplaincy

The school has a Chaplaincy team that is led by our academy Chaplain. The Chaplaincy team lead and coordinate our collective worship programme and contribute to our INVOLVE programme through lunchtime and after school clubs. The Chaplaincy team run several other groups that both students and staff can be involved in, as well as co-ordinating charitable and other programmes which enable staff and students to make a positive impact on others.

Developing the Student Profile

Students at Trinity Academy St Edward's are growing to be	
Empathetic- We recognise the importance of understanding the feelings and experiences of others	Compassionate towards others near and far, and loving by their just actions and forgiving words
Respectful- We value each member of community, showing regard for others and celebrating difference.	Students will grow to be learned finding good in all things and become wise in the way they use their learning for the common good
Honesty- We understand that truthfulness and integrity are key to building a strong community.	Eloquent and truthful in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world
Responsibility- We are committed to caring for ourselves, our community and the world around us.	Intentional in the way that they live and use the earth's resources, guided by their conscience and prophetic in the example they set to others

Our vision

We will display, on a daily basis, behaviour that models our Christian vision:

'We are an academy where all are valued, respected and celebrated. We are a courageous, resilient and positive community rooted in hope, aspiration and excellence. Together, we enable each other to be the best we can be.'

"The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper." Proverbs 19:8