Hope Federation
'Enabling our children to flourish through the field of life'

Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust

Hope Federation of Church of England Primary Academies

Spirituality Policy

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Approved By:	**LGC**
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Person Responsible:	**Executive Headteacher**

Changes to the policy

Page	Changes	Agreed/Date
	Removal of Weasenham	March 2026
3	Updated Vision Statement	October 2026

Spirituality Policy

Our Vision

'Enabling our children to flourish through the field of life'

Our Christian vision, ***'Flourish through the field of life,'*** is rooted in Jesus' Parable of the Sower, Luke 8: 5-8. In this story, growth happens when seeds land in good soil. We believe every child is a precious seed with God-given potential.

Flourish means: **growing into one's full potential through nurture, challenge, community, and Christian values**.

Our task as a school is to create the conditions — emotional, spiritual, academic, and relational — where children can grow deeply, securely, and joyfully. Flourishing is not just about achievement; it is about becoming **wise**, **compassionate**, **hopeful** individuals who contribute positively to their **community** and the world.

Three Core messages for families:

- Every child is created by God and capable of flourishing.
- Flourishing happens when children feel safe, loved, challenged, and supported.
- Our values of **hope, wisdom, compassion** and **community** guide how we prepare the "soil" for growth every day.

Policy Aim

The aim of this policy is to outline how Hope Federation of Church of England Primary Academies provides opportunities for children to develop their spirituality.

It is our role in school to inspire, create and recognise that spirituality exists in everyone. As Jesus said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit" and we want to ensure we support our children to be happy and rounded in all respects, including spirituality, which cannot be taught or measured.

What is Spirituality

Spirituality is not possible to teach. It is like the wind - it makes a difference but is uncontrollable for each person. It might change someone's understanding and beliefs but ultimately is an innate sense of awe and wonder. It is about understanding that there is something more than just 'me'.

Promoting spirituality should not be confused with developing faith. Faith is a set of beliefs by which you live your life by and could be a response to a belief in God. Faith is something you choose whereas spirituality is an aspect of human development - it is not separate but integral to who we are and what makes us whole. Spirituality is for everybody regardless of faith.

How does Hope Federation promote spirituality?

Our school aims to support children in making sense of themselves and the world around them. We aim to help them observe their own responses to different experiences. Our school believes that experiences, both in and out of school, are important to the development of all pupils.

We will create frameworks that help them to consider big, sometimes overwhelming, concepts such as life, death, identity, war, environmental factors etc. but without necessarily offering answers. These opportunities come through the teaching and learning of our whole school curriculum particularly our values, Collective Worship, RE, PSHCE/RSE, Science, Art, Music and English.

Children will have exposure to spiritual experiences and conversations to know that it exists for everyone, including adults.

Opportunities for spirituality development come when:

- children are given space to stop, look, listen, think and reflect
- children feel safe to share opinions and think differently from others
- children use their imagination

Children need:

- time to be listened to;
- adults that are respectful;
- space to explore, think and discuss;
- opportunities that encourage wonder and surprise;
- to know that there is not always a product or end result;
- to know there is another way.
- time to 'just be' and to experience peace and stillness

A simple pictorial representation of how we can develop 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.

Spirituality in Our School

	MIRRORS - SELF *Like looking in a mirror..* Thinking about ourselves and how we feel about things.
	WINDOWS - BEAUTY *Like looking through a window…* Looking at the world in new ways.
	DOORS - OTHERS *Like opening a door to welcome people in …* Understanding how other people feel.
	CANDLE- BEYOND *Like watching a flame and thinking..* Reflecting on our learning and experiences.

Spirituality through Collective Worship

Collective Worship can often develop spirituality in both nature and content.

Our school uses 'The Gathering, The Worship, The Reflection and finally The Dismissal as four key elements to our whole school Collective Worship.

The school uses repeated words as our opening and closing that reflect the school vision. Collective Worship offers time for thought and reflection, and light is used as a symbol. Children are offered opportunities reflect and respond within collective worship. Prayers written by the children consider thoughts and concepts that are important to them.

Activities and opportunities will include:

- exposure and appreciation of nature;
- following rituals and traditions;
- use of prayer or reflection time;
- time for silence and stillness;
- acts of service that benefit others;
- stories that promote thought and imagination (without the need to find a moral)

Evidence of spirituality may come through art, play, attitudes, movement and using the senses.

Barriers to Development of Spirituality

Development of spirituality can be hindered when:

- adults trivialise something small to them but which is big to a child;
- the 'busyness' of life and not having the time to look and think;
- lack of space for stillness and listening.

By being aware of these potential barriers, staff across Hope Federation are able to allow children to develop their spirituality throughout their daily lives whilst in the school environment.