



Our Spirituality statement

St. John's Church of England School, Lemsford.

OUR VISION

"I came that they may have life, life in all its fullness".
John 10:10

Our vision for our school is inspired and built on this quotation from the Gospel of John
– Life in all its fullness.

At St John's Church of England Primary School, Lemsford we are striving to be a community in which everyone is enabled to have a full life centred on God's love: a life of **opportunity, fulfilment** and **service** to others.

We believe that every child is uniquely created and deeply valued, with the potential to flourish. "Life in all its fullness" means enabling each member of our community to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and academically, so that they may live rich, meaningful, and purposeful lives.

Understanding Spirituality: Living Life to the Full

At St John's we are continually aiming to deepen our understanding of spirituality, it is a journey of development in which, together, we are looking to recognise, seek and to be appreciative of spirituality. We understand spirituality as something that cannot always be seen but is experienced in moments of awe, wonder, reflection, and connection. It is about relationships—with ourselves, with others, with the wider world, and, for many, with God. At our school, we support children in recognising these moments and in developing a sense of joy, gratitude, and curiosity about life.

Teacher quote, "Spirituality is about growing our hearts, minds and souls. It helps us to wonder about God and the world around us, reflect on our thoughts and feelings, and feel connected to God, other people and creation."

Why Spiritual Development Matters for Flourishing

Spiritual development is central to enabling children to flourish. It helps them to understand who they are, to appreciate others, and to reflect on their place in the world. Through spiritual growth, children develop qualities such as respect, dignity, understanding, courage, responsibility and hope. We aim to nurture confident, compassionate individuals who are equipped to face life's challenges and opportunities with courage and integrity.

Nurturing Fullness of Life in Daily School Experience

We create regular opportunities for stillness, reflection, and prayer within the rhythm of school life. Whether through quiet moments in the classroom, reflective areas, or shared experiences, children are encouraged to pause, think deeply, and appreciate the world around them. We also celebrate joy, creativity, and curiosity, recognising that these are vital aspects of living life in all its fullness.

Looking in, looking out and Looking up: Experiencing Fullness

Our approach to spirituality is shaped by the concepts of Looking in, Looking out and Looking up. For each of these concepts we have an associated symbol to support our school community in their understanding of spirituality, as well as associated questions and sentence starts to explore each fully and personally:

Looking up



Looking up – How do we focus on God? Encouragement to reflect on something that is bigger than ourselves, something beyond us. Looking up helps me to...

Child quote, "I feel close to God when I'm in prayer and spend a moment in all the delightful nature and when I play the piano."

Looking out

Looking out – Experiencing the richness and diversity of the world. Encouragement to respond, to take action, to make choices, and to live out values that contribute positively to others and the world around us. How do we share God's love beyond our own community? Looking out reminds me....



Child quote, "Looking out means I will treat people as they would like to be treated."

Looking in

Looking in – Reflecting on our own thoughts, feelings, and beliefs. How do we live out faith in our community? Looking in reminds me to....

Child quote, “Looking in reminds me that I am loved and people care about me.”



Spirituality Across the Curriculum: Learning for Life

Spiritual development is woven throughout the curriculum. In Religious Education, children explore beliefs and values; in English and the arts, they express ideas and emotions; in science and geography, they encounter the wonder of the natural world. Across all subjects, we provide opportunities for questioning, reflection, and deeper thinking, helping children to find meaning and purpose in their learning. We encourage children to ask questions through using the question stems – So what...? What if...?



Awe and Wonder: Encountering God’s World

We believe that experiencing awe and wonder is essential to spiritual growth. Through engagement with nature, creative arts, and meaningful experiences, children are inspired to appreciate beauty, complexity, and the interconnectedness of life. These moments encourage gratitude and a sense of responsibility for the world we share.

Our relationship with the natural world is something we are able to explore at St John’s through our beautiful grounds, whether it is in structured Forest School sessions, a quiet time in the Peaceful Pagoda, looking closely at nature around us or sitting back to take in the bigger picture, these all offer opportunities for spiritual moments. Our Eco-Council helps us be mindful of our impact on the world around us. We make opportunities for appreciation of the natural world through our curriculum, visits to the local nature reserve and beyond and our development of the school grounds such as the spinney.

Inclusive Fullness: Valuing Every Individual

As a Church of England school, we are rooted in Christian values while warmly welcoming and respecting those of all faiths and none. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment where everyone has a sense of belonging and is able to flourish. Every child's voice is valued, and diversity is celebrated as part of the richness of our community.

Enriching relationships

We foster a sense of each of us being unique and regularly highlight and celebrate the strengths we see. We have enriching relationships within and beyond our school community. Families are warmly welcomed, parents are listened to and spoken with. They are part of our weekly celebration of achievements and provide invaluable support through the Lemsford School Association. Children relate to one another in class, through house teams, through our buddy system and through the wealth of opportunities for extra-curricular activities they are given. At morning drop-off and afternoon pick-ups our Headteacher is always at the gate welcoming our children by name, our Breakfast and After School Club is run by our own staff who remain with us all day, meaning we really know all our children. Safeguarding forms an intrinsic part of this care; knowing our children well and offering a truly open door to our families means we build strong, trusting relationships and are ready to offer support at the earliest opportunity. Care begins as soon as children begin to transition to us including meeting their year 6 buddy, a very special relationship which often connects the two families.

Collective Worship: Celebrating Life in Its Fullness

Collective worship is a central part of school life, offering opportunities for reflection, inspiration, and shared experience. Through worship, children explore Christian teachings and consider how they relate to their own lives. It is a time to gather as a community, to reflect on values, and to deepen spiritual awareness.

Adults as Guides to Fullness of Life

All adults in our school community play a vital role in nurturing spirituality. By modelling curiosity, kindness, and reflection, staff support children in exploring life's big questions. We aim to create a culture where thoughtful conversations are encouraged and where every individual feels supported in their spiritual journey.

Pupil Voice: Expressing Life, Meaning, and Belief

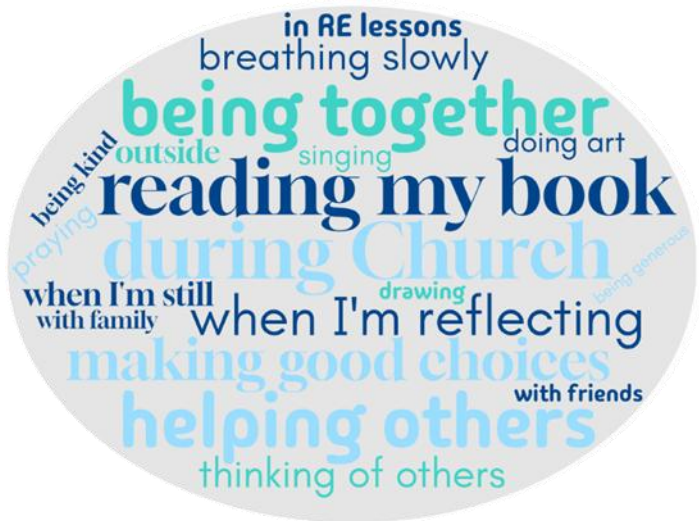
We encourage children to express their thoughts, questions, and beliefs with confidence. Through discussion, reflection, and creative expression, pupils are given opportunities to explore what "life in all its fullness" means to them. Their voices are central to shaping our understanding of spirituality within the school. Key to this our RE Enrichment Days where children are given opportunities to reflect on spirituality and its significance to them.

Living Life in All Its Fullness Together

As a school community, we journey together towards a deeper understanding of what it means to live well. Guided by our Christian vision, we seek to ensure that every child experiences fullness of life—growing in wisdom, hope, love, and joy. We recognise spiritual

development in the way children reflect, relate, and respond to the world around them. Its impact can be seen in their attitudes, relationships, and sense of self. Our growing understanding of spirituality is woven throughout everything that we do and believe and is central to our aim for all at St John's to grow towards fullness of life.

Class quotes, "When do Sandpipers class feel spiritual?"



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