

Bishop Young C of E Academy **Policies & Procedures**

Spirituality Policy

Approved on

29th April 2026

Approved by

Local Governing Board

Next review due

30th April 2027

Spirituality Policy

Bishop Young Academy is a safe and welcoming family, where all God's children are valued and all are enabled to flourish. We rejoice in the diversity of the many individuals who make up our community, as we learn to live well together and to serve one another in love.

Our vision influences the ethos of our Academy and the policies and practices within it. We believe that spirituality is a core thread that runs through our Academy and we attach great importance to it for our students' development, and for the growth and well-being of all within our Academy community.

We aim for children, and adults, to grow in their ability to:

- be guided by their beliefs and values, be willing to take a stand in integrity to defend them; having the necessary skills to express their views articulately and with confidence
- be self-aware and empathise with the experiences, and beliefs of others in the Academy and wider community, demonstrating oneness and benevolence in their daily routines
- love themselves, care for themselves, and believe in their potential to achieve and experience self-fulfilment
- be able to develop resilience and perseverance to overcome challenges that present themselves. Act in unity and oneness to support one another in the Academy community
- exercise imagination and creativity, appreciate beauty in the world and be alive to experiences of awe and wonder
- be intrigued by mystery and be open to an awareness of the transcendent in the whole of life
- be comfortable with stillness and silence and open to engaging in reflection/meditation/prayer and recognise that health and happiness incorporates physical, emotional, mental health and spiritual wellbeing.
- be ready to apologise and take accountability for mistakes, to forgive themselves and to forgive others
- be willing to reflect, learn and grow following experiences of failure as well as success
- demonstrate curiosity and open mindedness when exploring life's big questions from a personal viewpoint and a wide variety of alternative perspectives; be an active listener and disagree respectfully
- appreciate and be thankful for what is good in life like friends and family, and show generosity towards others

(From David Smith's work on Spiritual Capacities)

Leeds Diocese defines Spirituality as follows:

"Spirituality is an aspect of being human. It is a way individuals seek and express meaning and purpose; it weaves together moments of connectedness with the self, others, the world and the significant or sacred."

At Bishop Young Academy, spirituality is experienced when time and space are set aside to create windows of thought, practice and reflection. These opportunities enable:

- movement towards a deeper understanding of personal identity and the importance of relationships
- personal faith and belief to be expressed in a wide variety of ways
- the opportunity to experience the presence of God
- As a staff and governor team, we have agreed on a definition of spiritual development in our Academy community to support us as we talk about spirituality.

Spirituality is the experience of connection and integration, through which individuals find harmony and peace within themselves while recognising a sense of something greater, or 'other', than themselves.

Legal requirements:

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 states:

The curriculum for a maintained School or maintained nursery School satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly-based curriculum which: (a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils at the School and of society, and (b) prepares pupils at the School for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

The SIAMS Schedule (amended September 2021) references spirituality in both the RE and Collective Worship strands but the main focus is part of strand two on Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills. The Church of England Vision for Education has a core desire for 'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) which requires educating the whole person.

The OFSTED framework 2021 states that pupil's spiritual development is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faith, feelings, and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others, and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences

We support pupils in their spiritual development by:

- providing opportunities for spiritual development through daily reflection, daily prayer and weekly collective worship
- providing opportunities to express their faith and worship according to their faith calendar
- providing opportunities for spiritual development in RE
- providing opportunities for spiritual development in the wider curriculum
- capturing opportunities for awe and wonder in the curriculum and through the wide range of enrichment opportunities that students, and staff, can engage with beyond the academic curriculum.
- providing 'Sacred Spaces' in classrooms, public spaces, and ensuring that there is dedicated time and space for personal prayer and worship within the School
- offering pupils opportunities to develop their own spiritual leadership, through leading collective worship, being ambassadors within the School and as courageous advocates within the community

As a staff Team:

- We have a staff understanding of spiritual development, built around the framework of our School vision and Christian ethos.
- We have a culture within our School that recognises the importance of spirituality to individuals, children and staff.
- We revisit spirituality and collective worship as an area for consideration in our staff meetings and offer training.
- We encourage staff who are specialist subject leads to identify opportunities for spiritual development in their subject, and to share them with colleagues. The importance of faith in all subject areas is shared with students in each classroom
- Our governors monitor the impact of our collective worship, our character curriculum and spirituality focus.
- We have staff guidance accessible to continue to support staff in this aspect of our curriculum.
- We ensure new staff are aware of our School policy on spiritual development and collective worship.
- We have a clear and dedicated spiritual space for prayer and reflection accessible to all members of our community whatever their faith backgrounds, affirmations and a variety of visual displays and teachings across the School.
- We actively use the language we have agreed on with staff to nurture an awareness of spirituality and its importance to well-being and development with our students.

- We aim to help each individual to develop a spiritual understanding in terms of their own cultural context and worldview.
- We share with parents, whenever possible, the outcomes of our focus on spiritual development through newsletters, social media, displays and our website.
- We discuss spirituality with our church and others who can further support this thread.

Our awareness and understanding of spiritual development will enrich what we offer to the children and to all in our School community.

Other related policies:

- Christian Vision and Collective Worship
- Teaching and Learning
- RSE/ Relationships and Behaviour
- Religious Education Policy
- SMSC
- All subject specific curriculum policies including BYA Character Education

Referenced reading:

- Church of England Education Office (CEEO) Spiritual Development – Interpretations of Spiritual Development in the Classroom (2019)