

How we understand spirituality at Keevil CofE Academy

Spirituality is reflecting and asking questions of ourselves, others, the world and beyond; this leads us on a journey of understanding and growth of who we are on the inside and how we behave on the outside.

Our school vision and ethos is based on the parable of the Good Samaritan. In this story we come to understand how someone reached out and gave all he could to someone to whom he could have turned his back. This is exemplified by the quote “Always treat others as you would like to be treated.” (Matthew 7:12). Jesus told this story to illustrate what God’s love for us is like, and to encourage us to show and share God’s love with everyone around us. To do this, we must start with ourselves. We need to know and understand ourselves as an individual, and how this affects how we interact with everyone and everything around us. This means looking within, at our spirit. Spirituality is reflecting and asking questions of ourselves, others, the world and beyond; this leads us on a journey of understanding and growth of who we are on the inside and how we behave on the outside.



Progression of Spiritual Development

Self

Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of self – the inner person and the way that this shapes an individual's perception of themselves as a unique human being. Spiritual learners reflect on the relationship that they have with their sense of being a unique person.

| EYFS | KS1 | Lower KS2 | Upper KS2 |
|--|--|---|--|
| Encounter: Learning about life: providing openings for spiritual development through an exploration of identity and personal values. | | | |
| Cross-curricular Links: PSHE – Keeping Healthy; Growing Up (RSE); Emotions; Keeping Safe; Changes/Moving On RE – People of God Science – Humans Art – Portraits Spirituality Activities: Starfish Story; 'When God Made The World'; 'Happy In Our Skin' 'Sad book' | | | |
| Reflection: Learning from life: understanding an inner meaning of self and identity – critical reasoning and big questions. | | | |
| What makes me happy? What do I do in my spare time that I like? What things do I value? | Who am I? What am I worth? What is right and wrong? How do I decide what is right and wrong? | What are feelings? Don't we deserve to be happy? What should I do about right and wrong? What do I deserve in life? Who should I look up to? What type of person do I want to be? What difference does being loved make? Is belief in something important? What rights do I have? | Should you respect yourself over all other things? Where does your identity come from? Does more mean being happier? Is my understanding self a selfish concept? Are the opinions of my friends important to me? Are my beliefs important? |
| Transformation: Learning to live life: responding as a means of expressing an idea of self: developing a personal set of beliefs. | | | |
| A growing awareness of knowing what I like and what I don't like both materially and in the way that I want to be treated. Can say what I like and what I am good at. | An evolving awareness of the concept of self as more than purely physical characteristics. A growing realisation that being content with who you are is important for personal happiness. Know how to apologise and to try again. Beginning to recognise mistakes and how to deal with them in a positive way. | The awareness that the growing development of a personal identity is an important aspect of being human. A growing realisation that an emphasis on self alone is not sufficient as a means of living out the self. An evolving sense of the concept of identity as more than purely physical characteristics or our likes and hobbies. Can set goals for my work and behaviour that will help me to progress. | The awareness of the value of reflection to explore deeper responses to thoughts that help shapes the 'inner self'. An understanding that we express our personal values in the way that we approach our relationship with others and the world around us. The ability to express an interpretation of this verbally. Can explain my opinions. |

Others

Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of others – a growing empathy, concern and compassion for how to treat others. Spiritual learners reflect on how their values and principles affect their relationships with others.

| EYFS | KS1 | Lower KS2 | Upper KS2 |
|---|---|--|---|
| Encounter: Learning about life: providing openings for spiritual development: recognising the values and worth of others | | | |
| Cross-curricular Links: PSHE – Relationships – Peers; Anti-Bullying; Citizenship; Communities; Relationships - Family RE – Gospel; Major World Faiths – Beliefs and Values Geography – Human Geography Spirituality Activities: Starfish Story; Refugees; “We have more in common with each other than that which divides us.” | | | |
| Reflection: Learning from life: understanding an awareness of the effect of others– a search for meaning, critical reasoning and big questions | | | |
| What makes a good friend? Why are my friends important to me? What do I like in my friends? How do my friends make me feel? How do I look after my friends and family? | Why do people bully others? How do I treat others? Do I treat other people in the same way? Should I treat everyone in the same way? Should I treat my friends differently to others? Why do we fight and argue? Should we always be loyal to our friends? How can I demonstrate compassion? | Why do people ignore others when they need help? Is being a good friend easy? Why do we sometimes hurt the feelings of our friends? How sincerely can I care for those who may be in need but I have never met? Why should we care for them? Will we ever live in a world without fighting? What responsibilities do I have for others? | Is it better to please oneself first; or others? Why do people have to suffer? What is pain? Is there such a thing as a bad person? What is worth striving for? Why isn't life always fair? Is being fair always that right thing to do? Does more mean being happier? |
| Transformation: Learning to live life: responding as a means of expressing an idea of relationship with others: expressing innermost thoughts through words, art or actions. | | | |
| Understanding that other people have their own views and opinions and may value different things to you. | A growing appreciation that the views and opinions of others should be listened to with respect whether those views are similar to your own or different. | Acknowledgement and respect for the rights of others to have their own deep thoughts that shape their inner self. A developing ability to enter into discussions with others about their values and opinions. | A growing empathy with the values of others and developing an understanding of the need to appreciate them to build meaningful relationships. A growing ability to express how understanding the value of others is an important part of building meaningful relationships. |

The World

Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of a physical and creative world – a growing relationship with beauty through the ability to respond emotionally to experiences of the wonder of the natural world and the results of human creativity. Spiritual learners explore their understanding beauty and the affect this has on their perception of and relationship with the world.

| EYFS | KS1 | Lower KS2 | Upper KS2 |
|--|--|---|---|
| Encounter: Learning about life: providing openings for spiritual development: challenging experiences of beauty | | | |
| Cross-curricular Links: RE - Creation Science – Living Things; Earth and Space Art – Artist Studies Music – Piece of the Term; Listening Geography – Physical Geography Spirituality Activities: Starfish Story; ‘The Man Who Planted Trees’; Ugliness in the World | | | |
| Reflection: Learning from life: reflecting on experiences of beauty – a search for meaning, critical reasoning and big questions | | | |
| What types of weather do you like the most and why? What is your favourite colour and why? What sounds do you like to listen to? What makes you afraid? What is your favourite time of day/season? | Do different colours have different moods? What gives them these moods? What is the most beautiful thing in the world? Why should I care about animals and plants? How/why does the weather affect our mood? | How do we know we’ve found all the colours in the world? What season do you feel most reflects your personality What is the difference between hearing and listening? Should we try to tame nature? What does it mean that beauty is in the eye of the beholder? What would it be like without seasons? | What is a perfect world? Why is there ugliness in the world? Can you love something that is ugly? Why do you like certain types of music? What response do you get when you look at a piece of art? Is beauty something that you can learn, or do you just have to feel it? What is the point in being creative? |
| Transformation: Learning to live life: responding as a means of expressing an idea of the meaning of beauty: expressing innermost thoughts through words art or actions. Being moved emotionally by beauty. | | | |
| Have an instant response to something wonderful/ exciting and awesome happening. Evident in expression and simple phrases. Respond to sensory feelings and be able to show it. | Give a verbal response that explains a reaction to something wonderful/ exciting or awesome. Be seen to respond to a stimulus and begin to explain in simple terms verbally or through body language. | Be able to understand and give meaning to something wonderful/ exciting or awesome. Be able to verbalise their sensory responses and begin to explore their reactions to stimuli. A growing confidence to explore concepts orally. | Be able to explain/ give an emotional response to stimuli and begin to articulate this from a personal perspective. Be able to display shades of meaning when verbalising sensory responses and understand and interpret their reaction. A developing appreciation that some things don’t have answers. |

Beyond

Spiritual learners become increasingly aware of the concept of the beyond – a growing relationship with the transcendental and the ability to explore experiences beyond the everyday. Spiritual learners search for meaning in their very existence and their place in the greater scheme of things.

| EYFS | KS1 | Lower KS2 | Upper KS2 |
|--|---|--|---|
| Encounter: Learning about life: providing openings for spiritual development: a growing appreciation of the intangible – truth, love | | | |
| Cross-curricular Links: RE – God; Salvation; Incarnation; Major World Faiths – Beliefs and Values | | | |
| Spirituality Activities: Circle of Life; Picturing Heaven | | | |
| Reflection: Learning from life: reflecting on the beyond – a search for meaning, critical reasoning and big questions | | | |
| What are the stars for? Why do we have rainbows? How big is the sky? What is the smallest thing there is? Why are people different? What does God look like? | Where is God? What might heaven be like? Is there such a thing as an angel? If you can't see something, is it still real? What is true happiness? When have you experienced moments of awe and wonder? | What is the purpose of the earth? Is God alive now? Why is there illness? Why do destructive things, like earthquakes, have to happen? Which is stronger – love or hate? Is it good that scientists can't explain everything? Why are there religions? What is beyond the universe? | Do we come back after death as a different being? Is there life after death? Where do our spirits go when we are dead? Do we have a soul? If so, what happens to it after death? Why do we love? What lasts forever? What is unknowable? What else is there to discover? How do we know what we don't know? What is worth dying for? |
| Transformation: Learning to live life: responding as a means of expressing the need to understand the purpose of life. | | | |
| Have the confidence to ask questions that have no answers. | Have a sense of enjoyment in devising and discussing questions that have no answer. Use imagination to interpret responses to big questions. | Understand what big questions are. Be able to explain imaginative responses to questions of meaning. | Can generate big questions. Begin to express through a personal vocabulary responses to questions of meaning. Begin to be able to use critical reasoning in responding to a big question |