



## **Windows, Mirrors and Doors: Our Approach to Spiritual Development**

At our Church of England Primary School, we are committed to providing an education that nurtures the whole child. Spiritual development is a central aspect of this commitment. We adopt the recognised framework of “**windows, mirrors and doors**” to ensure that children experience a rich and balanced approach to spirituality that is both *deeply Christian* and *inclusive of all*.

### **Windows – encounters with the wider world**

*Windows* allow pupils to observe and engage with the world beyond themselves. Through collective worship, outdoor learning, through the diversity of our school community and throughout the wider school curriculum pupils gain insight into different perspectives, cultures and faiths. This fosters empathy, respect and an appreciation of the richness of God’s world. We also use the language of ‘wows’ and ‘ows’ to help children to differentiate between moments that are ‘awe full’ and ‘awful’.

### **Mirrors – opportunities for self-reflection**

*Mirrors* provide structured moments for pupils to reflect on their own beliefs, values, feelings and experiences.

Through quiet reflection, prayer and discussion, pupils are encouraged to explore their identity and recognise their intrinsic worth. Some subjects and times allow for this specifically, such as PSHE, religious education and collective worship but in all subjects, there will be opportunities, unexpected or planned, when things just ‘crop up’. Handled sensitively, it is possible to make the most of all these times.

This supports the Church of England’s vision that each person is made in the image of God and is of infinite value.

### **Doors – responses and actions**

*Doors* provide opportunities for pupils to respond to what they have encountered or reflected upon. This can simply be done through a change in attitude or behaviour or thinking. It can also be expressed powerfully through music or art or drama or dance and through some form of social action or specific acts of giving.

Examples include participation in worship, leadership roles or ethical decision-making. At the Deanery school specific examples of this are the support of three charities each term chosen by the house captains as well as the work of elected members of school council, eco council and the spiritual ambassadors.

Through such actions, pupils are supported to live out Christian values such as compassion, responsibility and hope.

### **Our Commitment**

By integrating windows, mirrors and doors throughout school life, we aim to cultivate a thoughtful, reflective and compassionate school community. This approach aligns with the

Church of England Vision for Education—promoting **wisdom, hope, community and dignity**—and supports pupils in developing the spiritual awareness and moral integrity needed to contribute positively to society.