

# Spirituality and Collective Worship at Stoke Bishop Church of England Primary School



At Stoke Bishop C.E. Primary School, we are committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers irrespective of race, gender, disability, belief, sexual orientation, age or socio-economic background. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and ability to participate fully in school life. We tackle discrimination through the positive promotion of equality, by challenging bullying and stereotypes and by creating an environment which champions respect for all. At Stoke Bishop C.E. Primary School, we believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all those who learn, teach and visit us.

**Every child, irrespective of their religion or beliefs, will be encouraged to develop spiritually during their time at this school.**

We understand Spirituality to have four dimensions:

- **Self:** I am unique and I am proud of my own identity.
- **Others:** I can build good relationships with other people.
- **Beauty:** I can see beauty in the world around me.
- **Beyond:** I can think about the meaning of life beyond that which I can see and touch.



Spirituality is one of our [curriculum drivers](#), alongside Possibility and Community, which means that it underpins the whole curriculum we provide for our children, and it is woven through every subject we teach.

Our focus on Spirituality is built on our Christian values, which are a continuous thread through all we do, ensuring that we give children the opportunities to become aware of the world in new ways: we wonder about things in life that are amazing and things that make us question what is happening – children are learning about life in all its fullness. Children are given opportunities to reflect on their experiences, to think about life's big questions and consider some possible answers. We develop in our children a sense of belonging and understanding of their place in the world.

Our vision of ***Believing it's possible***, and our four school values, **Passion, Integrity, Grace and Courage**, are lenses through which we understand Spirituality and grow as spiritual beings. We believe that these values provide children with a successful platform for their ongoing development as successful learners throughout their lives.

In addition to weaving Spirituality into all aspects of the curriculum, as a Church of England School we are required to provide a daily act of **Collective Worship**. This helps children and adults to explore the four dimensions of Spirituality: Self, Others, Beauty and Beyond. It gives an important opportunity to express and promote the ethos and values of the school, and makes a significant contribution to the **spiritual, moral, social and cultural development** of all who take part in it. Collective Worship is a time for participation and reflection, and is designed to be inclusive and accessible for all who take part in it, of all faiths and none.

## Children and adults regularly take part in six different styles of Collective Worship.

Type of Collective Worship	Day and frequency	Led by	Themes covered
Collective Worship as a <b>Whole School</b>	Weekly on Mondays	Members of SLT/Extended SLT	National festivals, world faiths, whole school initiatives
Collective Worship as a <b>Hub</b>	Weekly on Tuesdays	Staff and children	British values, links to the curriculum, 'open' format
Collective Worship with <b>St Mary's Church</b>	Weekly on Wednesdays	A St Mary's minister	School value for the term, and one with an Advocacy focus
Collective Worship as a <b>Class</b>	Weekly on Thursdays	Staff and children	Other important values (see below)*
Collective Worship: <b>Celebration</b>	Fortnightly on Fridays	Members of SLT	N/A
Collective Worship: <b>Singing</b>	Fortnightly on Fridays	Music lead	N/A

\*The school values are **Passion, Integrity, Grace and Courage**, these, along with *Believing it's Possible*, and Flourishing, are focussed on in a variety of ways each term. In Collective Worship as a Class, we look at other important values: **forgiveness, peace, thankfulness, truthfulness, respect and humility** (one per term), using a series of questions to help children reflect on these concepts over several weeks. These times of Collective Worship are opportunities to deepen our spirituality, and may not have any content which is specifically faith-based.

As far as possible we aim to offer consistency in Collective Worship each time we gather, allowing opportunities to HEAR about a topic, EXPLORE it and REFLECT on it. Children have the opportunity to share their feedback about Collective Worship in order to ensure continual improvement in what is offered. Collective Worship is monitored by the staff subject lead and Governors. World faith festivals are regularly celebrated during *Collective Worship as a whole school*, as well as being a time to explore topics which are not explicitly faith-based. The school regularly invites visitors from the local community and further afield to contribute Collective Worship.

As a Church of England school, Collective Worship has a particular emphasis on the ways that the school vision and values are expressed by the Christian faith. No child or adult are required to pray, this is always presented as an invitation. *Collective Worship with St Mary's Church* is led by one of the ministers from St Mary's, and almost always includes a Bible story, as well as other readings, poems, music and media. As such, parents have the right to withdraw their children from this style of Collective Worship if they choose to do so. Each term one of these times of Collective Worship focusses specifically on Advocacy, which we define in school as *Living out our school values in order to try and make the world a better place*.



At specific points in the school year, children have the opportunity to take part in multi-sensory activities, offered in partnership with St Mary's Church, which enhance their spiritual development and aspects of the RE curriculum. These include an annual Prayer Space for every year group, immersive trails at St Mary's to explore the Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas (for Y1,2,5&6), and interactive workshops (for Y3&4). YR usually visit the church for a 'Church Detectives' experience and take part in a Christingle workshop in school. As a whole school we hold our Easter and Christmas services in church each year during the school day.