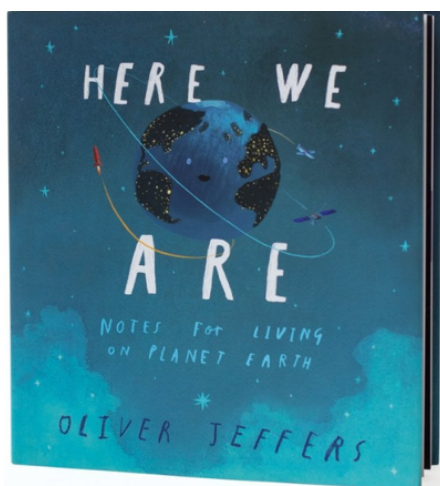


## Spirituality at Holy Trinity

We place a **high priority on spiritual development** for our children at Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Gravesend. We do this to help them *flourish* 'as a person', as this enables them to be reflective about their own thoughts and beliefs, helps them to inform their perspective on life and empowers them to recognise they are already, and will always be, very valuable members of our school community, locally and in the context of the wider world).

We accept that defining spirituality can be difficult to put into words because it is a very personal experience. It differs from person to person, and often changes within people during their lifetime. We accept that a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith.

For all our pupils, but particularly our youngest members of our school, we define spirituality in terms as: *something we cannot see; but something we feel deep inside ourselves. It is about our senses making us think about the 'ows' and 'wows' of life – the moments of awe and wonder; asking BIG questions; being inspired to do something terrific for ourselves or others and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of us all."*

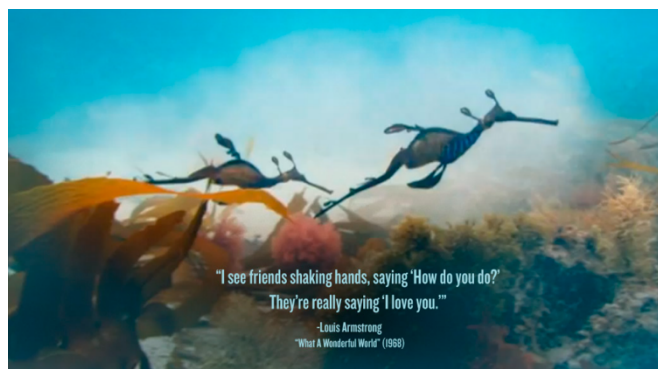


### Spirituality = Awe and Wonder

Children are born inquisitive, and we know it is our duty to nurture this natural curiosity and guide them towards looking at the world and noticing, with awe and wonder, the natural and man-made delights all around us. We want to encourage them to ask 'big questions' about life, religion, nature, science, and any other area of fascination. Literature such as Oliver Jeffers picture book, 'Here We are Now' help to illustrate this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkcjKbbF9JA>





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYXBJmrsxZU>

## Spirituality = Caring for Nature and Living Things

We provide many opportunities for children to learn about nature and the role they play in protecting our world. As a Church School, this is especially important. We have a very active Gardening Club and children enjoy planting seeds and watching them grow. Last year's cabbages were the size of watermelons! Through Science, PSHE, RSE, children learn about the world and how they can care for living things.



## Love

We are a very caring school and pride ourselves that many visitors to school comment on the clear sense of family which pervades our Christian, learning environment. In all that we do, we endeavour to be guided by our biblical text, Psalm 115:105, 'Lord your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path.' Through this and our Christian Values (Love, Honesty and Respect), we teach children to care for friends, family and the community. Indeed, our curriculum includes learning about those we love and who love us. Below are some book titles that have been studied by Year 6, Year 5 and Year 4 respectfully this academic year with the theme of Love and eliciting **spiritual responses at their heart**. (Extracts from 'The Missing' by Michael Rosen, will be performed by Year 6 pupils at the Holocaust Memorial Day event at Chatham Synagogue this year. The theme for 2024 is, 'Fragility of Freedom.')

## Spirituality for older pupils:

### Transformation, reflection, experience, encounter

For our ks1 and ks2 pupils at holy trinity, we use the metaphors of windows, mirrors, doors, encounter to explore spirituality in more complex terms. We explain spirituality as being able to be **transformative, reflective, experience rich and as an encounter.**

#### Transformation – the door



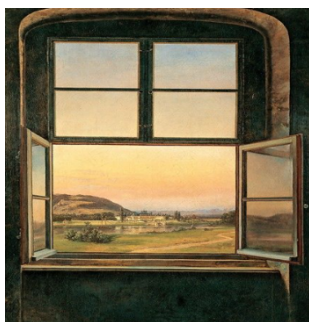
Spirituality can be about transformation. The image of the door supports us all to think about the things that change in life when we go from one place to somewhere else. We think about other people who might be beyond the door. What do we have in common? What is different? How can we help? What can be changed? Why should we make the change? What can we change about our attitudes, perspective, point of view?

#### Reflection – the mirror



Spirituality can sometimes be about reflection. This encourages our school community to spend time reflecting on themselves, their thoughts, beliefs, values, and feelings. Space to ask questions about themselves.

#### Experience – the window



Spirituality is about experience. This encourages us all to imagine looking out of a window at the world around us. Think about its beauty and any questions or curiosities you have. Giving space to ask questions about the world around us.

## Encounter – the candle.



Spirituality is about encounters. An awareness of the things we cannot see in life, but we can feel. For many in community this is expressed as an awareness of god and personal faith. It is also about developing imagination.

In summary, our pupil's spiritual development is fostered from our Christian foundations, vision, and values. Because of this, pupils can:

- Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories, and collective worship.
- Develop their own system of beliefs which may or may not include religious beliefs.
- Experience a love of learning through rewarding their enthusiasm and by encouraging exploratory play and learning.
- Reflect upon the world around them and show a sense of awe and wonder towards aspects of the natural world or human achievement – which we celebrate every Friday during celebration worship.
- Reflect on the situations of others through role play, stories, the use of restorative justice, participation in special events such as fundraising opportunities, Holocaust Memorial Day, the Poppy Appeal to name just two.
- Experience a range of stories, music, art, drama, and dance in school and beyond.