Developing Spirituality at Parish

At Parish, we pride ourselves in nurturing the spirituality of everyone in the school community. All children have an inborn spirituality. However, if spirituality is not nurtured, it can wither. Spirituality is not the same as religious faith but it is the bedrock on which faith is founded.

What Is Spirituality?

Spirituality is about relationships: relationships with ourselves, others, the world and with God. It is like a bird – if held it too tightly it will choke, but if held too loosely it will fly away. It is the sense of our engagement with the world, with ourselves and with others that is intangible but a deep part of us.

What does Spirituality do for our children?

To be in touch with your spiritual self means that you are self-aware. Inevitably, spirituality requires reflection, introspection, questioning and engagement with ideas. If we can enhance the children's spiritual being then we can enhance their self-esteem, we can improve their empathy and relationships, we can allow them to find their place in the world, to value others and themselves. Beyond academic learning, we can support children to be founded, strong, meaningful and engaging citizens of the world who can bring greater value into their own lives and those of others.

To help the children understand their developing spirituality we explain it using clear language and symbols. This symbols and explanation can be seen in every classroom in reflection areas and the symbols are used around school to show where evidence of developing spirituality can be seen.

	MIRRORS – SELF AND OTHERS *Like looking in a mirror …* Thinking about ourselves and how we and those around us feel about things.
	WINDOWS – WORLD *Like looking through a window …* Looking at the world in new ways – noticing the 'Wows' and 'Ows'!
	DOORS – GO OUT AND DO! *Like opening the door and stepping out …* Responding to what you are coming to believe and value