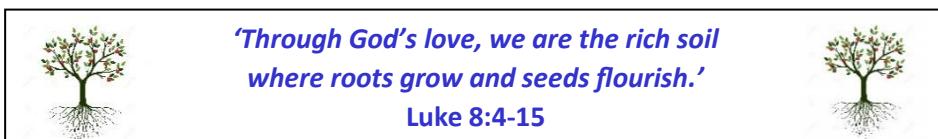


Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish



Spirituality Policy

2024-26

Approved by:

Jane Davis and The
Governing Body

Date: Autumn 2024

To be reviewed:

Autumn 2026

Spirituality

Our vision underpins everything we do at Lanchester Endowed Parochial School and influences the ethos of our school and the policies and practices within it. We believe that spirituality is a core thread that runs through our school and we attach great importance to it for both pupils' development and for the growth and well-being of all within our school community.

At Lanchester Endowed Parochial (Controlled) Primary School, our Christian vision is based on the parable of the sower in Luke's gospel:

'Through God's love, we are the rich soil where roots grow and seeds flourish'.

Luke 8: 4-15

We are the rich soil in which our children can develop their roots and grow and flourish to be the best they can be. We aim to create an environment in which all our children are nurtured in a caring community so they can grow to fulfil their own potential as unique individuals. Every child matters and every success is celebrated. We ensure children enjoy their time with us and grow to fulfil their own potential with their individuality celebrated.

Our vision is aligned with the Church of England's own vision for education as we define flourishing in terms of Jesus' promise of '**life in all its fullness**'. (**John 10:10**) Our vision is to develop children not just academically, but holistically including emotionally, socially, morally and spiritually.

Why is Spirituality important?

The Church of England's Vision for Education states a core desire of '**life in all its fullness**'. As a Church of England school, it is essential that we educate and develop the whole child ensuring Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development. We explore Spirituality by providing our children with opportunities to be still and reflect. Spirituality enables children at Lanchester Endowed Parochial School to flourish in all aspects of life, fostering deep connections with themselves, others, the world and God. Through spirituality, they grow academically, emotionally and morally, empowered to make a positive impact on their community.

Developing Spirituality in our school?

At Lanchester E.P. Primary School, we believe in nurturing every individual's potential, helping them grow and flourish. Our core Christian values - Love, Hope, Joy, Trust and Kindness - guide us as we encourage each pupil to reach their full potential and flourish. Spiritual flourishing is an integral part of this journey, framed by the simple yet profound practice of Looking In, Looking Out, and Looking Up.

We have very carefully considered the spiritual development of our children by linking it to our School Vision and providing children with opportunities to reflect and think about:

- Themselves (Looking IN)
- Their relationships with others (Looking OUT)
- God and Jesus's teachings (Looking UP)

'Through God's Love, (UP) We are the rich soil (IN) Where roots grow and seeds flourish (OUT)'
By Looking In, Looking Out, and Looking Up, we grow in confidence and personal success, becoming the best versions of ourselves. At Lanchester E. P. School, we want everyone to explore their own spiritual and personal development through encounters with themselves, others and God and/or something bigger than themselves. We use the shared vocabulary of Looking In, Looking Out and Looking Up.

Looking In

Reflecting on Ourselves

How do you feel about yourself? Are you confident, self-assured and empowered, or do you sometimes feel unsure and insufficient? Looking inward means exploring your thoughts, beliefs, and feelings. We encourage self-reflection and self-care and for every member of our community to love and value themselves as a unique child of God. We encourage everyone to explore their gifts and talents to celebrate themselves.

Why Look In?

- Self-Discovery: Understand your values, aspirations, and how you want to be treated.
- Empowerment: Build self-confidence and recognise your strengths.
- Personal Growth: Positive self-reflection fosters success and resilience, helping you overcome challenges.

By looking inward, we recognise our potential and acknowledge our worth, allowing us to be the best version of ourselves and truly flourish.

Looking Out

Connecting with Our Community

Our world is filled with opportunities to make a difference. Looking out means understanding the world around us, caring for others, and contributing positively to our community.

We encourage all members of our school to use their gifts and talents to look out towards others. We want all members of our school community to use their gifts and voice to show love and care for others both locally and globally. Through encounters with others we encourage children and adults in school to be advocates for change and to develop a passion for fighting social injustice.

Why Look Out?

- Community Service: Engage in acts of kindness and service.
- Positive Impact: Help create a thriving, supportive environment for everyone.
- Shared Responsibility: Understand our role in building a compassionate and just society.

By looking outward, we strengthen the bonds of community and embody the values of love, hope, joy, kindness and trust in action.

Looking Up

Seeking Something Greater

Spirituality involves connecting with something beyond ourselves—a search for meaning and purpose. Looking up means embracing life's bigger questions and seeking guidance from a higher power.

We are all spiritual beings on our own spiritual journey. We encourage members of our team to explore and consider something greater than themselves. We provide opportunity for prayer, reflection and encourage children and adults in school to explore life's big questions.

Why Look Up?

- Connection: Find meaning in your relationship with God or a higher power.
- Reflection: Ask deep, philosophical questions about life and purpose.
- Growth: Align your character and actions with values that transcend daily life.

Whether through prayer, meditation, or quiet reflection, looking up helps us understand our role in the world and aligns our actions with the values that shape our character.

How is Spirituality promoted at Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School?

To encourage spiritual growth within our children and adults, we set aside a short period of time, **Mindful Moments**.

At Lanchester E.P. Primary School, teachers actively nurture spirituality by incorporating purposeful '**Mindful Moments**' at the start of the afternoon session. These reflective breaks encourage pupils to stop, think deeply, and engage with key questions that align with our **Looking In, Looking Out, and Looking Up** framework.

Looking In questions prompt self-reflection, helping pupils explore their emotions, personal insights, and connections to lessons. For example, pupils may consider whether they discovered something surprising or felt a strong emotional response.

Looking Out questions foster awareness of community and collaboration, encouraging pupils to reflect on their interactions with peers and their roles within group activities. They might assess how well they listened, shared ideas, or resolved conflicts, fostering empathy and teamwork.

Looking Up questions guide pupils to consider broader, philosophical perspectives, encouraging them to connect their learning to larger concepts such as the environment, future aspirations, or their role in society. These reflections help pupils develop a sense of

purpose and a connection to something greater than themselves. They also consider the week's 'Big Question'.

Through these mindful moments, pupils not only deepen their understanding of the curriculum but also cultivate the self-awareness, compassion, and vision that empower them to **flourish** in all aspects of life.

Opportunities for the development of spirituality come when:

- Children are given space to stop, look, listen, think and reflect
- Children feel safe to share opinions and think differently from others
- Children use their imagination

Children need:

- Time to be listened to
- Adults that are respectful
- Space to explore, discuss and think
- Opportunities that encourage wonder and surprise
- To know that there is not always a product or end result
- To know that there is another way

Activities and Opportunities will include:

- Exposure to and appreciation of nature
- Use of prayer and reflection time
- Time for silence and stillness
- Acts of service that benefits others
- Stories that promote thought and imagination (without the need to find a moral)

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Collective Worship and RE Policies. This policy will be reviewed every 3 years as a minimum. It is next due for review in September 2026.