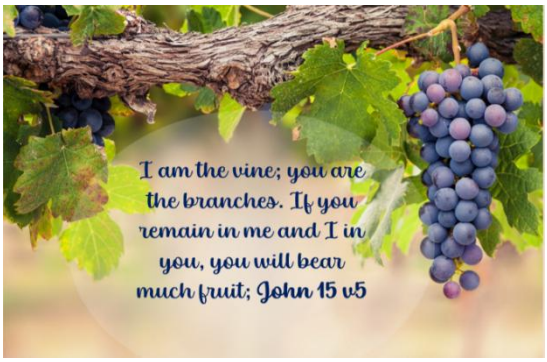
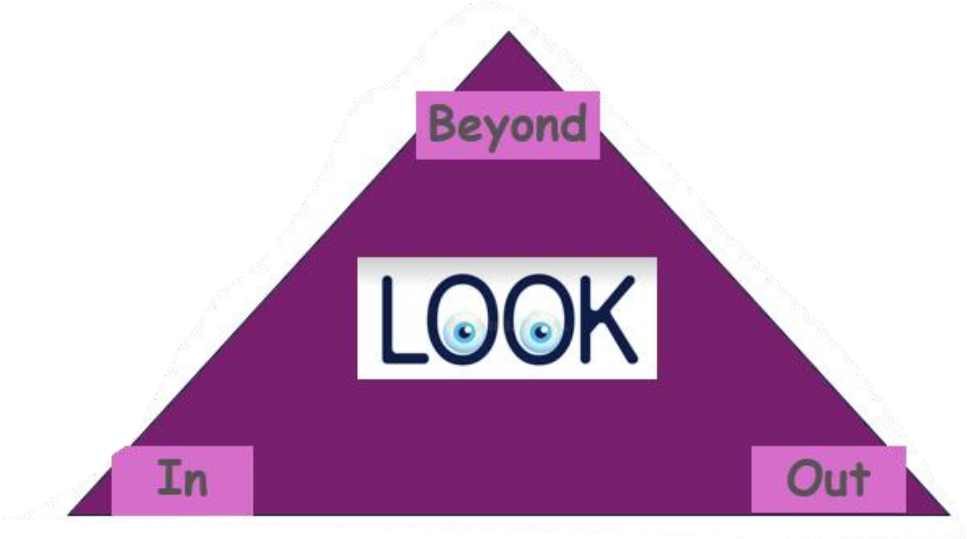
David Ross Education Trust

Broadening Horizons



WELTON CE ACADEMY

Spirituality Policy



2026_2027

Updated June 2026 ***To be reviewed: July 2027***

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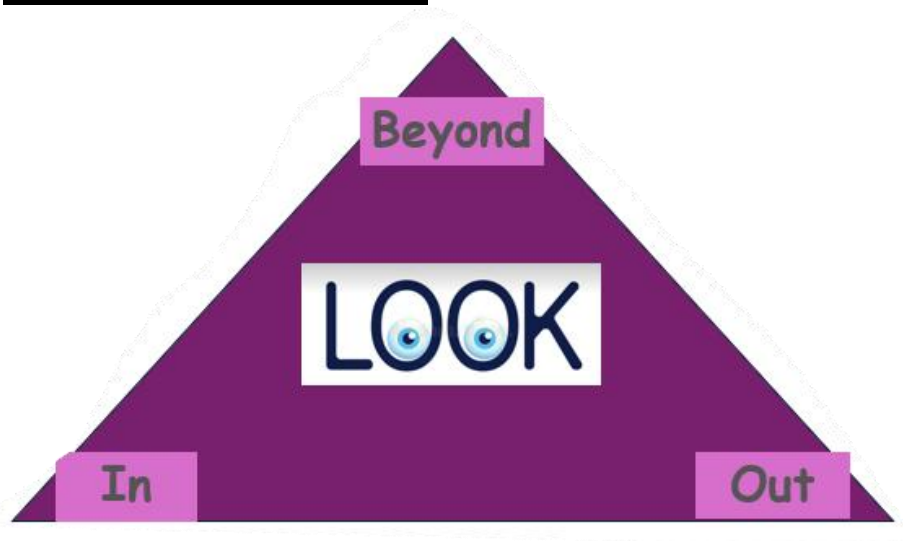
Spirituality at Welton

At Welton, we describe spirituality as looking in, looking out and looking beyond.

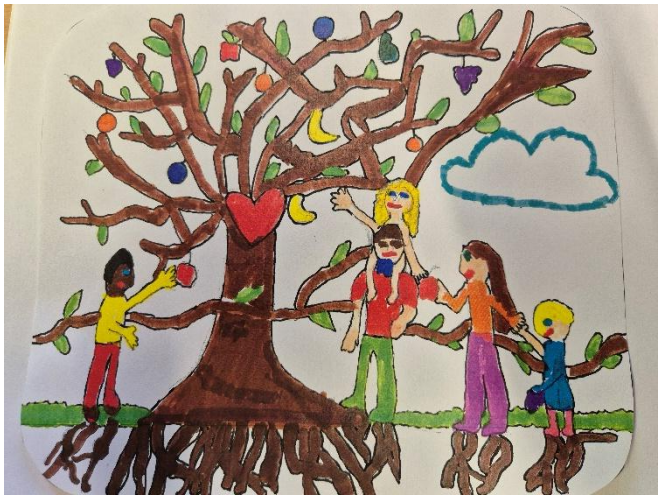


We '**look in**' to take time for self-care, understanding and growth. *"Created in God's image (Genesis 1:27), each child is invited to know their own worth and giftedness."*	We '**look out**' to our friends, families, community and the wider world to help and take care of others and our planet. *"Jesus taught us to love our neighbour (Luke 10:27), prompting us to care for others and creation."*	We '**look beyond**' to answer big questions about our place in the world, looking to nature or to God for guidance and love. *"As people of faith, we search for purpose, guided by God's love and truth (Jeremiah 29:11)."*

Our Vision

Root yourself, grow together, share the fruit

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear, much fruit." John 15 V5



Root Yourself Take care of yourself. Take time to understand what you need and grow and develop. Be confident in who you are.
Grow Together Help others on their journey of growth. Stand up for others. Encourage others to achieve.
Share the Fruit Care for our world. Be responsible citizens in their own community and in the world.

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Our Values

AMBITION We try to be the best we can be. *'He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work.' Exodus 35 v35*	We use imagination to help our students discover their talents and a love of learning through new experiences.
COMPASSION We take action to show we care. *'Therefore, as God's chosen people… clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience' Colossians 3 v12*	We care for others and positively act against injustice and inequality.
COURAGE Nothing holds us back. *'Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us' Hebrews 12 v1*	We have high expectations, encouraging our students to achieve with courage and determination.
INTEGRITY We make the right choices. *'The seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it and patiently produce a huge harvest.' Luke 8 v15*	We always do what is right, even when it is challenging and difficult.
RESPECT We always lead by example. *'Show proper respect to everyone' 1 Peter 2 v17*	We lead our lives as great role models in our school and communities.
ASPIRATION We aim high all the time. *'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you might overflow with hope' Romans 15 v13*	We raise aspirations and inspire ambitions, giving our students the confidence and knowledge for life in a rapidly changing world

Rationale:
Spirituality is a powerful force that determines what we are, and our self-understanding. It forms the basis for successful relationships, and shapes our behaviour and outlook on life, others and the world. 'For a human being, especially a child or young person, to have a full quality of life, spirituality in all its aspects must be nurtured and affirmed' (John Bradford). At Welton CE Academy, we believe in the uniqueness and potential of each individual child. A key part of that belief is to nurture children's spiritual awareness and develop each child's spiritual character. At Welton CE Academy, the spiritual dimension is expressed through our strong Christian faith and the recognition of the spiritual nature of mankind. Our ethos enables and encourages all children to grow and flourish spiritually.

What is spirituality?
At Welton Academy CE Academy we believe spirituality is about a person's relationship with themselves, others and the world around them. We do this by looking in, out and beyond. It is important that children are given the opportunity to form a strong sense of their own spirituality. It is also vital that all of the adults in school also see the need to develop their own spirituality for their own well-being, and so that they can effectively support and help our children and each other. Our vision encompassing the vine allows our teachings to be rooted in the Christian narrative, using the teaching of Jesus to help children to think deeply about their actions, consider how these relate to the bible stories they study and then think about how they can apply this learning to their own lives.

We fully respect that our pupils come from Christian families, from families of other faiths and from families of no faith, and that pupils will hold beliefs and values of their own. Through our spirituality policy, our aim is to enable all our pupils to reflect deeply on what it means to be human and to ascribe meaning and value to human existence.

Key elements of spirituality:
• Awareness of feelings; ability to reflect and express
• Awareness of our uniqueness; happiness with who we are
• Gratitude for the things we have and the person we are
• A sense of being in a relationship with others and a growing understanding of what it means to belong to a community
• Exploration of personal faith
• Development of imagination and creativity
• Empathy and understanding, respect, tolerance
• To love and be loved
• Making a difference; duty
• Encountering/experiencing God (or alternative higher power)
• Opportunities for prayer

• Making sense of the world
• Developing a sense of awe and wonder
• Enjoying the miracles of everyday life
• Taking time for what really matters
• The ability to realise that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth and development

Our aims in promoting spirituality:

Our school aims to support children in making sense of themselves and the world around them. We aim to help them observe their own responses to different experiences. Our school believes that experiences, both in and out of school, are important to the development of all pupils. We create opportunities to consider big, sometimes overwhelming, concepts such as life, death, identity, war, environmental facts etc, but without necessarily offering answers. These opportunities come through the teaching and learning of our whole school curriculum including collective worship and the wider curriculum. Children will have exposure to spiritual experiences and conversations to know that it exists for everyone including adults. We aim to develop everyone's skills in reflection and stillness as well as a sense of awe and wonder at life and the natural world.

How does Welton promote spirituality?

To promote spirituality, we will:

- Have regular time in the day for quiet and reflection. This might be listening to a story, lighting an LED candle in worships, sharing prayers before lunch and at the end of the day or completing a spirituality activity.
- Provide opportunities for prayer including silent and stillness.
- Use prayer stations to explore topical issues or enable deeper spiritual reflection.
- Sing often, especially with others – songs of worship.
- Provide frequent opportunities for children to explore, express and share feelings.
- Value the children's questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- Use spirituality strips to enable the children to make links between different areas of the curriculum and spirituality and faith.
- Provide opportunities for the children to identify ways in which they would like to make an impact on the wider world.
- Encourage and enable children to engage in acts of courageous advocacy on a small or large scale.
- To foster self-awareness and promote a feeling of self-worth.
- To develop a set of values, principles and beliefs.
- Constantly reaffirm the important of relationships. How we talk to and relate with each other is fundamental.

- Encourage children to admit mistakes and to say sorry. Recognising and owning up to faults is an important part of healing and redemption.
- Encourage children to show kindness, caring and compassion and to express these in practical ways.
- Read often to children and give them opportunities to discuss and reflect. This includes both secular and religious texts, particularly the Bible.
- Reinforce our key values and how they relate to everyday life.
- Conduct daily collective worship either as a whole school or in class and give the children the opportunity to lead worship themselves.
- Displays pictures around the school to continually celebrate and encourage reflection and spirituality.

Barriers to Spiritual Development

Development of spirituality can be hindered when:
• Adults trivialise something small to them, but which is big to a child,
• The "business" of life and not having the time to look and think,
• Lack of space for stillness and listening.

By being aware of these potential barriers, staff at Welton can allow children to develop their spirituality throughout their daily lives whiles in the school environment.

Monitoring and impact

Spiritual development cannot be measured and continues throughout our lives. However, opportunities offered to children for spiritual development will be monitored and evaluated in the following ways:
• Observing and listening to children,
• Regular discussion at staff and governor meetings alongside the school's Christian vision and values,
• Sharing of classroom work and practice,
• Ensuring that staff have a clear understanding of what spirituality means in this school by providing them with induction and development training,
• Evidence from pupils' work, e.g. Vision floor book, RE books, SMSC work, creative writing, art;
• Regular inclusion in the school's evaluation,
• CPD opportunities and sharing examples of good practice with other school

On leaving Welton CE school, our spiritually aware children love and accept themselves and enjoy good relationships with each other. They take an interest and delight in the world around them. They are able to express and understand feelings; they have a strong moral sense and a love of what is good. They are able to enjoy quiet and

stillness. They possess an active imagination and show joy in creativity and discovering new skills. They value the opinions and beliefs of others and are able to express their own confidently and appropriately. They are passionate in wanting to have a positive impact on the wider world and pro-active in taking action to make improvements or to challenge injustice.