

Mugginton Church of England Primary School



Spirituality

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand, And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, And Eternity in an hour
(William Blake, Auguries of Innocence)*

It is very difficult to put into words what 'spirituality' is because it is a personal experience. It differs from person to person, and spirituality changes within people during their lifetime. Spirituality is not the same as having a religion or faith; a person can be spiritual without having a particular faith.

As a school, we have defined spirituality as:

"Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking questions, being inspired and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of ourselves."

The language we use to define spirituality is not necessarily child-friendly, so when talking to children about it we refer to:

- A sense of awe and wonder
- Care for nature and living things
- Wanting to love and to be loved by people - connectedness

Awe and Wonder

Children are born spiritual and inquisitive. 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.

Caring for Nature and Living Things

We provide many opportunities for children to learn about nature and the responsibility they hold to protect our world. We learn outside every Friday Afternoon where these values are reinforced. In addition, we have

an active Eco Committee and Gardening Club. We have created bird feeders and owl boxes this year already. Through science and topic work, children learn about the world and how they can care for living things. Our School has been awarded the Eco Schools Award. Mugginton is proud to have a school dog, Milly the Spaniel. Whilst Milly helps the children with their reading, concentration and self-regulation, our children learn that they, in turn, must help Milly to feel safe, loved and secure.

Love

We know that every person holds unique, intrinsic value. Our entire school is based around this fact. We pride ourselves on our ethos of being a second family to our children & community. Through our Christian Values, we teach children to care for friends – particularly those little mustard seeds who will grow into great trees - family and community.

Children's spiritual development is fostered through all aspects of school life. In one way, it is devalued by being 'listed' in a traditional sense. Life at Mugginton is about relationships and care for the individual first and then the development of knowledge, resilience, skills, and attitudes. We give children opportunities to:

- Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, sharing feelings and opinions through discussions and stories.
- Begin to develop their own system of beliefs which may or may not include religious beliefs.
- Experience a love of learning through exciting, rich activities which promote intrinsic motivation; reward enthusiasm and hard work and encourage exploratory play, learning and an inquisitive mind.
- Reflect upon the world around them and develop a sense of awe and wonder towards aspects of the natural world or human achievement.
- Reflect on the situations of others through role play, stories.
- Take responsibility for younger children and those with additional needs.
- Experience a range of stories, music, art, drama and dance and express their talents publicly in church services, productions, concerts, music lessons and other creative enterprises.