

Spirituality Across the Curriculum

Spirituality at Dr Radcliffe's – 'a concern with the human spirit and person beyond the material or physical.'

Religious Education ('RE')

RE can provide children with a framework to understand and respect the diverse spiritual and religious beliefs of different people. Children can explore different religious traditions and their teachings, beliefs and practices. This enables them to experience wonder and joy and embark on their own journey of self-discovery and personal growth.

Children can experience wonder and joy through learning about and from stories, celebrations, rituals and different expressions of religion and worldviews. They consider the impact of these on believers as well as any relevance to their own life.

RE can provide children with a space to develop their emotional intelligence, empathy towards others and themselves, and develop a sense of openness and respect towards different cultures, religions, and worldviews. Self-knowledge can help children cultivate a deep sense of connection with the World, resulting in greater emotional and spiritual awareness that can benefit them throughout their lives.

English

English provides opportunities for children to explore and express their innermost thoughts, feelings and experiences. Children can connect with themes related to their spirituality, such as love, compassion, social justice, and self-awareness. At the same time, they can develop their inner world, empathise with characters and create narratives. English can also provide a platform for children to make sense of their experiences and navigate anxieties but also appreciate the beauty of writing.

English provides an opportunity for children to explore their spirituality in meaningful ways. It can contribute to emotional and social well-being and promote their personal growth. Children learn to consider the purpose and audience of their writing.

Literature can explore moral and ethical dilemmas and involve reflective pieces on personal values and beliefs. Children can be asked 'I wonder what you think happens next?' 'How would you feel if you were the person in the story?' 'Where have you met these ideas before?'

Children develop their performance skills and contribute to the life of the school through e.g. plays, performances and P Factor (poetry).

Independent reading fosters a lifelong skill and opportunity for enjoyment which opens a door to exploring the World for meaning, humanity and philosophy.

Maths

Maths is about more than just numbers and calculations. It is a way of understanding the World and our place in it.

Children are encouraged to see patterns, connections and meaning in the World around them. This can help them to feel more connected to the World and to develop a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives. For example, children can be encouraged to see mathematics as a tool for exploring the structure and order of things - even things as infinite as the universe!

Children have opportunities to appreciate the beauty and elegance of mathematical concepts such as shape, space, symmetry, proportion and balance. They are also encouraged to see the interconnectedness of different mathematical concepts and to use this understanding to explore the patterns and relationships in the World around them. It helps students develop a sense of wonder, purpose, and connection to the World around them.

Science

Spirituality features in science as it provides children with an opportunity to explore the wonders and mysteries of the natural World and our place within it. Children can work scientifically and collaboratively in exploring the interconnectedness of the universe, the power of nature, and develop a sense of awe, wonder and reverence for the World around them.

Science can also help children develop empathy for other living beings and cultivate a sense of responsibility towards environmental sustainability.

Geography

Children can learn about their place in the World and their connection to the environment and others. Children learn about different cultures and their beliefs and experiences which shape their worldview, including landscape and settlement patterns, such as the location of holy sites, pilgrimage routes, and the design of sacred buildings.

They can foster a connection and appreciation for the environment and help children develop a sense of responsibility towards the planet, considering issues of sustainability, stewardship and interconnectedness.

Children can compare their lives with children living elsewhere, including which opportunities are there to respond and take responsibility in a challenging World.

History

History provides children an opportunity to connect with the past, developing a sense of identity and belonging.

By learning about the rituals, beliefs, and values of earlier civilisations, children can develop empathy, understanding and appreciation for different cultural expressions of spirituality.

In addition, the study of history can expose children to the struggles, resilience, and courage of individuals who stood up for their religious and spiritual beliefs and fought for change. Children can learn about the role of spiritual values in movements for social justice. Through the study of history and comparative religions, children can develop critical thinking skills, ethical awareness and a personal sense of spirituality that transcends their immediate environment.

Computing

Spirituality features in computing as it can provide an opportunity for children to develop their creativity, critical thinking and ethical awareness (e.g. social media). Computing can promote spirituality through the

exploration and creation of digital media that explores themes such as belief systems, social justice and environmental issues.

Music

Spirituality features in music as it provides children with an opportunity to explore and connect with their inner self and emotions in a meaningful and creative way. Through music, children can develop skills related to attention and appreciation of present moments, self-expression and empathy towards others.

By exploring different genres of music, children can connect with themes related to compassion, love, hope and joy, and develop their emotional intelligence. Music can guide children on how to tap into their inner narrative, transcendence, and connection to oneself and others – how does it make one feel? This includes in class, assemblies and performances.

Art and Design

Art and Design allows children to explore and express their personal beliefs, emotions and experiences in a creative way. It provides a platform for children to connect with their inner selves and develop a sense of empathy and compassion towards others. It allows children to contemplate the deeper questions of life such as the meaning of existence, identity, and morality, and encourages them to develop their own unique perspective in their work. Children can express personal beliefs and values through creative artwork, including through the process of reviewing and evaluating.

Design and Technology

Design and Technology can also promote spiritual growth by encouraging children to develop empathy towards others, consider ethical (local/seasonal products and Fairtrade) and environmental implications of their creations and work collaboratively with others to address social issues. Children can consider ethical and moral implications of design decisions, including what motivates designers and their decisions.

