St Clement's CofE School Statement on Spirituality

School's Christian Vison:

We follow Jesus' example by valuing and cherishing all God's children in an ever-changing world. We are loved so we can *love*, we *learn* so we can grow and therefore *live* our lives to the full, flourishing in the eyes of God today and in the future.

Love, Learn, Live

'Love your neighbour as you love yourself', Luke 10:27



Our vision of Love, Learn, Live has driven our spirituality in school. As God's children, we know we are loved, we love each other and ourselves. We love to learn through the teachings of Jesus and aim to live what we have learned always. The ows, wows and nows (explained below) give the staff and pupils in our school opportunities to recognise and deal with things that happen throughout our lives, both good, bad and different. It helps us to reflect, inspires awe and wonder and allows us to develop and flourish as individuals.

To talk about spirituality is, essentially, to talk about something which is beyond words. To make conversations about spirituality more accessible to every member of our school community, St Clement's C of E Primary School has chosen to follow ideas developed by the Education Department at the Diocese of Gloucester. This language of spirituality begins from a Christian understanding that everyone is a valued creation, individually and uniquely made by God, like pots made by a potter (Isaiah 64:8). Yet, in life things happen that impact on the physical 'pot' of life and create cracks that provide a glimpse of something 'beyond' the tangible. Christians would view this as an opportunity to relate to the Divine Creator God. Cracks may be caused when something so good and breath-taking happens that the pot expands and cracks – the wows of life. Cracks may happen when something challenging happens and threatens the comfort of everyday – the ows of life. Cracks can

also happen in the stillness and ordinariness of everyday – the nows of life, when a moment of stillness, a pause or prayer creates a crack in the normal, physical everyday.

In these special moments, there is a spiritual opportunity. Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken ceramics with golden joinery or glue, creates something that has been broken into something even more beautiful. Using this metaphor, the wows, ows and nows of life offer the possibility of cracks that are filled with gold and make the pot even more beautiful. The gold in the cracks reflect a little of the wonder of spirituality. St Clement's C of E Primary School uses this language and the concepts of wows, ows and nows. These are used to explore relationships with:

- ourselves
- others
- the wider natural world and beyond
  and offering the invitation to relate to God.

Organisation

The spiritual growth of pupils is not only dependent on learning in RE, opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners are developed in every aspect of our school life. We support the whole school community to share this responsibility and to develop the shared language of spirituality. Opportunities are available for all to develop spiritually in our supportive and nurturing school inspired by our vision and lived out through our Christian values.

Each of our classrooms has a designated reflection area, offering a place for quiet reflection and/or prayer. We have outside areas in school (for example, a quiet area in the playground and a reading shed) to give children opportunities for reflection and peace.

We have identified specific areas which contribute to the spiritual growth of pupils: collective worship, the whole curriculum, including RE and the general ethos of the school within daily life,

Spirituality in Collective Worship

Collective Worship is the beating heart of St Clement's C of E Primary School. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared. Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present (now moments) which are often linked to invitations to pray. Through daily Collective Worship, pupils are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They are offered an understanding of worship by being invited to participate in, or observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible and liturgy and are introduced to different musical traditions. Opportunities to reflect on the wows of life such as beauty and joy of the world are given, as well as time to reflect and empathise with the ow moments of disappointment or pain. Pupils are given time to consider their responsibilities to others and to grow in love and service. Time is given for celebration, both for the accomplishments of school members and to mark seasonal Christian festivals and celebrations in the calendars of other faiths. In this way pupils are offered time to be able to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in St Clement's C of E Primary School is invitational, inspirational and inclusive.

Spirituality in Religious Education

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school's approach to RE and spirituality. Learning activities in RE provide for the needs of all pupils, offering a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews, linking these to pupils' ideas of spirituality and the language of wows, ows and nows where appropriate. For further details, please refer to St Clement's C of E Primary School's Religious Education Policy and The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement.

Spirituality within the Curriculum

Drawing on the language of wows, ows and nows, conversations around spirituality will be included in classroom teaching when appropriate from Reception to Year 6.

In all subjects of the curriculum

- How do you celebrate the achievement and break-through wows of success?
- How do you support the ows of difficulty and frustrations?
- How do you maximise the everyday moment of concentration and being in the present, creating a sense of calm and completeness?

Maths

• The wonder of number patterns

• What cannot be measured? For example, love

• What cannot be accurately counted? For example, the difference an act of kindness makes.

English

• How do you frame questions around a text? For example:

  - What inspired you in this text?
  - How did a character cope with a challenge in life?
  - How did the actions of a character surprise you?
  - How do you think you would have responded to that wow or ow moment?
  - What do you think makes these words so powerful/beautiful/painful?

- What inspired you write this text?
- How are you going to engage your reader?
- What do you want your reader to feel/remember?
- How are you going to make your reader have an 'ow', 'wow' or 'now' moment?

DT

• What motivates designers and their decisions? For example, is it a desire to make money or a desire to help and make improvements to daily life for everyone?

Music

- How does music encourage creativity, delight, and curiosity?
- How does the music make you have an 'ow', 'wow' or 'now' moment?

MFL

- What motivates language learning? For example, buying an ice cream on holiday or welcoming and comforting a stranger in our country?
- What does it feel like to genuinely communicate with someone in a new language?

Geography:

- The wow of physical geography
- The ow of discovering different physical regions do not provide the same opportunities.
- What options/opportunities are there to respond and take responsibility in a challenging world?

History

- Which accounts/events give historical wows?

• Which accounts/events give historical ows?

• What lessons for future decisions and choices do they provide?

PE

- What does it feel like to be completely focused on a task or challenge?
- How do you recognise the delight in movement, connectedness, and creativity?
- Encourage the awareness of one's own strength and limitations.
- Recognise/celebrate equality, freedom, respect and trust.
- How do you celebrate a new skill? How does it feel to be proud of your whole self?

Science

• Delight in discovering how things work.

• Opportunities to linger longer on the wonder!

• What questions cannot be answered by science?

Art

- What are the wows and ows in the stories behind the artists you study?
- How do you celebrate and respect different responses to art?
- How do you express your 'ow', 'wow' or 'now' moments through art?

PSHE

• As you explore topics such as relationships, feelings & attitudes, keeping safe and 'your body' where are the natural links with the wows, ows and nows?

• How can the honesty and sensitivity needed to explore these topics gently reflect the language of spirituality already used throughout the school?

Spirituality within the Ethos of the Daily Life of the School

In St Clement's C of E Primary School, we view spiritual growth as becoming more and more aware of one's natural, innate spirituality. These opportunities happen throughout each and every day as children deal with delight, disappointment and the chance to be present with themselves. For this reason, every member of the school community, including MDSA and administrative staff are

familiar with the school's shared language of spirituality and will respond to pupils appropriately. Throughout the daily life of the school, including lunch times and playtimes, pupils know that their references to wows, ows and nows will be heard and taken seriously. They will be encouraged to reflect on these experiences and be comfortable about talking about the golden glue of spirituality. Outline any specific ways your school supports spiritual growth eg through behaviour policies, playtime protocol or the use of prayer spaces activities etc.

Recording, Monitoring and Evaluation

The church school improvement board member reviews the policy annually in partnership with Senior/ Middle Leaders and consider any views expressed by parents, children and staff in order to make any changes or recommendations. Recommendations are fed back to the full School Improvement Board (SIB) and are then actioned as appropriate. SIB members ensure that this policy is fully implemented and that practice is consistent with the school's Christian vision, in line with the school's monitoring policy and schedule for SIBs.

Roles and Responsibilities

Recognising there are opportunities for enhancing the spiritual well-being of learners in every aspect of our school life, every member of our staff team is committed to support this spiritual growth wherever appropriate. Lisa Long and Amanda Mason are responsible for supporting and leading spiritual development in our school, including monitoring opportunities for spiritual growth in collective worship, the whole curriculum (including RE) and the general ethos of the school within daily life. This role also includes:

• Ensuring personal knowledge and expertise are kept up-to-date by participating in CPD and shared good practice

• Providing and sourcing in-service training for staff as necessary

• Ensuring all staff are familiar with the shared language of spirituality

• Acquiring and organising appropriate resources, managing a budget when necessary

• Monitoring the opportunities for spiritual growth through regular observations and learning walks in both formal and informal contexts, discussions with colleagues and pupil voice

• Contributing to the SIAMS self-evaluation process particularly around Strand 2

Staff Development and Training

We ensure that all staff, including support staff, receive appropriate training and opportunities for professional development, both as individuals and as groups or teams. ECTs and staff who are new to St Clement's C of E Primary School will receive training and support from the staff member identified as leading on spirituality. This policy is shared on the school's website and is part of the induction pack for new staff and new governors. This policy is reviewed every 3 years, or more frequently, as required. Other generic statements the school would normally include in any curriculum policy e.g. links to other policies.