



Definition of Spirituality at Ridgeway Farm CE Academy

At Ridgeway Farm CE Academy, we recognise that spirituality is a deeply personal and developing aspect of every child's life. It is not something that can be measured or seen, but something that is experienced, felt and reflected upon. Spirituality is not the same as having a religious faith; however, as a Church of England school, our understanding of spirituality is rooted in the Christian vision of life as a gift from God and in the belief that every person is uniquely created and deeply valued.

Spirituality at Ridgeway Farm is about **how children make sense of themselves, others, the world and God**. It is nurtured through moments of reflection, curiosity, connection and compassion. We believe spirituality helps children to develop a sense of identity, purpose and belonging, enabling them to flourish as whole people.

We understand spirituality as being developed through four key areas of relationship:

- **Relationship with self** – developing self-awareness, resilience, inner reflection and emotional understanding
- **Relationship with others** – learning empathy, respect, love, forgiveness and service
- **Relationship with the world** – experiencing awe and wonder, beauty, creativity and responsibility for creation
- **Relationship with God** – encountering faith through prayer, worship, Bible stories and Christian values, while respecting different beliefs and worldviews

Our definition of spirituality

At Ridgeway Farm CE Academy, spirituality is:

The way we help children to wonder, reflect and ask big questions about life; to understand themselves and others; to experience joy, hope and belonging; and to recognise that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Making spirituality accessible for children

When talking with children about spirituality, we use language they can understand. We help them recognise spirituality through:

- **Awe and wonder** – noticing beauty, mystery and excitement in the world
- **Feelings and reflection** – understanding emotions, thoughts and experiences
- **Relationships** – caring for others and feeling cared for
- **Big questions** – wondering about life, God, the world and what really matters

How spirituality is nurtured at Ridgeway Farm

Children's spiritual development is woven through everyday school life and our curriculum. We create intentional opportunities for children to:

- Reflect quietly and thoughtfully through prayer, stillness and moments of pause
- Ask questions and explore ideas without fear of having all the answers
- Experience joy, creativity and imagination through art, music, stories and play
- Develop empathy and compassion by listening to others and considering different perspectives



- Experience awe and wonder in nature, learning to care for God's creation
- Encounter the Christian faith through collective worship, Christian values and the life of the school

At Ridgeway Farm CE Academy, spirituality is not an add-on. It is central to who we are as a Church school and to our commitment to nurturing confident, compassionate and reflective children who are ready to flourish in the world.