Riddlesden St Mary's C of E Primary School and Nursery

Rooted in the Christian faith and embracing all within the community, we encourage, enrich and enable everyone to be the best they can be.

'Go and do likewise.'

Luke 10:37

Spiritual Development at Riddlesden St Mary's

How do we define spirituality at Riddlesden St Mary's?

- A connection to something bigger than ourselves.
- A belief in the human spirit and soul, caring for and supporting others and the world around us.
- A search for awe and wonder in all that we do.

How do we make the definition of spirituality accessible to all?

Windows

Let's look at the world and wonder, ask questions to dig deeper.

Mirrors

Let's reflect on who we are and our experiences, and think about what we are learning.

Doors

Let's explore and take opportunities, and put into action what we believe and value.

How do pupils and staff flourish spiritually at Riddlesden St Mary's?

We believe that the following building blocks enable all stakeholders to flourish spiritually →

Self-Awareness | Relationships | Questioning | Awe and Wonder

Beliefs and Values | Creativity and Imagination | Feeling and Emotion

Pupils and staff alike:

- Hold beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings, values and beliefs.
- Have a love of learning and a fascination with finding out more developing the sense of 'wonder'.
- Operate both imaginatively and creatively.
- Reflect on their experiences, putting into action what they have learned, believe and value both in school and out.

What does this look like in practice?

Our school curriculum →

- English – Our English learning is powered by story. Using a text driven approach puts story and language at the core of our curriculum. Storytelling has been part of human culture for thousands of years- entertaining, informing, persuading and inspiring people across generations and cultures. With high-quality, purposeful texts at the heart of learning, pupils learn to make links across subjects, exploring the wider picture, people and places, and lives contrasting to their own all through the written word. Building skills in reading, writing and speaking ensures our pupils can express themselves with creativity and imagination enabling them to flourish as they move beyond Riddleden St Mary's.
- Maths – The intent of Maths teaching and learning at Riddlesden St Mary's is to develop mathematicians who flexible in their approach to problem solving, with a love of Maths and desire to seek answers to questions. Maths problem solving lessons give children the opportunity to explore and collaborate in order to seek answers and put into action their skills learned in other Maths lessons. These skills can be applied across all learning and the resilience pupils develop empowers them to not give up when faced with a challenge in their learning and beyond.
- Science – At Riddleden St Mary's the aim of our Science curriculum is to develop curious learners who ask questions, develop a sense of awe and wonder, and can explore concepts with creativity. Science is a window into the natural world where pupils have the opportunity to marvel and ponder the things they do not yet understand, building this understanding through planned units of work.
- RE – At Riddleden St Mary's we follow The Dioceses of Leeds and York Syllabus for Religious Education. The core aim of the syllabus is to enable pupils to hold balanced and informed conversations about religion and worldviews preparing pupils for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern England. RE teaching and learning gives pupils the opportunity to not only acquire knowledge but deepen this knowledge through reflection and evaluation- discovering the deeper messages and meanings that lie within
- Humanities – Geography and History allow pupils to empathise with others across different times and cultures. Pupils have the opportunity to question and discuss actions and attitudes over time developing critical thinking skills looking into the past, present and future.
- Creative Arts and Design – These highly creative areas of the curriculum allow pupils to explore and express their own thoughts, ideas and concerns- bringing these ideas to life through the medium of Art, Music and DT. Creativity is the exercising of the imagination. Pupils having the chance and skills to express their inner most thoughts and feelings.
- PE- PE teaching and learning allows children to experience collaboration, explore and test their own capabilities and develop positive attitudes towards others. Experiencing both success and failure enables pupils to grow and learn from their experiences.

Personal development →

- Our school's Christian Values (Respect, Peace, Courage, Forgiveness, Trust and Friendship) highlight how through our actions as humans we can connect with those around us, supporting one another to flourish. Pupils 'dig deep' into our values by answering big questions and exploring real-life values champions. These champions provide inspiration and guidance to pupils enabling them to reflect on who they are at what they are capable of achieving.
- Our school Learning Powers (Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness, Resilience, Reciprocity) develop pupils' love of learning and enable them to seek out opportunities and next steps within their own learning journeys.
- Relationships Education at Riddleden St Mary's develops an openness and awareness of difference, empathy to others, and sense of self-worth and confidence.
- Collective worship takes place first thing in the morning giving everyone the opportunity to come together as a school family- an act we believe is integral in fostering our school community. Within worship, pupils and staff are invited to reflect and/or pray ensuring all can engage with worship regardless of faith.
- Pupils have the opportunity to plan and lead collective worship combining their own experiences and learning with a Christian message at its heart. Parents are also invited to these collective worship sessions to be immersed in the pupils' experiences both academically and spiritually.
- PSHE/British Values

- Picture News provides pupils with thought-provoking discussion topics giving children and adults opportunities to develop learning further through news stories that inspire- a window to the world beyond our community.
- Opportunities for debate throughout the curriculum and wider curriculum encourage pupils to find their voice. In turn, this ensures that if they want to make a difference, they have to have the confidence to speak out and do so.
- Enrichment at Riddleden St Mary's gives pupils' opportunities to explore and learn beyond the National Curriculum including developing life skills, cookery and learning to play an instrument.
- Health and well-being are of the upmost priority for all members of the St Mary's family. Working on our physical health not only benefits our bodies but our minds too. Developing spiritually fills us with hope in times of difficulty whether this be physically, academically or when dealing with our emotions.
- Opportunities for stillness reflection are provided through 'mindful moments' where everyone has the opportunity to feel still and think.
- Parents are regularly welcomed into our school to explore and learn alongside their children as well as coming together as a community in times of celebration and achievement.
- Restorative practices underpin our school Relational (behaviour) policy ensuring all members of our school family feel seen and heard. Pupils, staff and parents are given a voice and are empowered to share the impact actions have had on them meaning conflicts can be resolved and relationships repaired.