

## Bowdon Church School

**Vision: "I have come that they might have life, and have it in abundance."**

**- John 10:10**

**Mission: "Loving, learning and growing together"**

**Bowdon Church School aims to provide a nurturing community and rich curriculum to guide children on life's journey: fostering a love of learning, cultivating spiritual, social, moral and cultural wellbeing, and strengthening them with a growing trust and knowledge of God.**

### **Core Spirituality Principles: Living an Abundant Life**

Spirituality itself is defined as the quality of being concerned with the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things, and it focuses on relationships and connectedness.

Following exploration into our understanding of spirituality in our context and how we then achieve the vision of 'Abundant life' by living out the mission of "loving, learning and growing together", please see a set of simple spirituality principles that the community has come to, structured around the school's mission and the 'Self, Others, World & Beyond' framework:

Our spiritual development is intrinsic to our life's journey, fostering spiritual, social, moral and cultural wellbeing and helping us have an understanding that there is something greater than self.

#### **LOVING (Focusing on Self and Others)**

This principle emphasises relationships, empathy, and the communal experience.

- **We value the Self:** We strive to be reflective about our own beliefs and perspective on life, understanding that each person is unique. We recognise and celebrate different talents and gifts within ourselves and others. We build **perseverance and resilience** and use reflection to guide us.
- **We love Others:** We model and teach love through acts of kindness and forgiveness, allowing for mistakes and not expecting perfection. We cultivate empathy, concern, and compassion in our relationships. We show knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values.
- **We live our Values:** We actively live out our Christian values, including Love, Respect, Hope, Forgiveness, Wisdom and Koinonia (shared fellowship). This is supported by using restorative practices and shared values.

## LEARNING (Focusing on Self and World & Beauty)

This principle emphasises curiosity, creativity, and appreciating the creation around us.

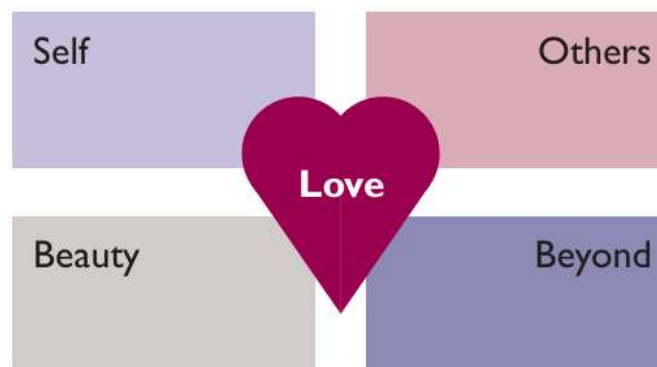
- **We embrace the World:** We make learning a spiritual experience by fostering curiosity, awe and wonder in the curriculum. We seek a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about ourselves, others and the world.
- **We connect with Beauty:** We perceive and relate to the physical and creative world through emotional responses to nature and art, including self-discovery, nature walks, and observations of seasons.
- **We use Imagination:** We develop our ability to use imagination and creativity in our learning and respect the environment through actions like litter picking and promoting sustainability.

## GROWING TOGETHER

### (Focusing on All Four Pillars: Self, Others, World, and Beyond)

This principle emphasises communal growth, connection to the transcendent, and searching for meaning.

- **We search for Meaning:** We relate to the transcendental, exploring big questions through oracy and topical talk, and encouraging debate. We seek fulfillment and a holistic sense of purpose and connection.
- **We worship and Reflect:** Collective worship enables pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. We strengthen our knowledge of God through stories and prayer, and ensure that the theologically rooted Christian vision shapes our worship.
- **We foster Belonging (Koinonia):** We ensure our community helps everyone grow by celebrating diversity and fostering a strong sense of belonging. This includes supporting each other in tough times and observing religious days in both the Christian calendar and world faiths.



(Andrew Rickett - [spiritual-development-interpretations-of-spiritual-developments-in-the-classroom.pdf](#) 2019)