



Trinity Academy Cathedral

Policy:	Spirituality Statement
Date of review:	December 2025
Date of next review:	December 2028
Lead professional:	Anna Gillinder
Status:	Non-Statutory
Name of academy	Trinity Academy Cathedral

1. Christian vision

Our Christian vision is “To develop kind, courteous and confident young people, who are highly knowledgeable, strive for excellence and advocate courageously for social justice. ‘Everything is possible for one who believes.’ (Mark 9:23)”. Jesus’ words encourage our community to have **hope and aspiration for the future, overcoming obstacles, never allowing background or circumstance to hold us back**. We believe that all students and staff can flourish spiritually regardless of their beliefs.

2. Theological and Educational Roots

As Wakefield’s only Church of England secondary school, our approach is shaped by the Church of England’s Vision for Education. We are guided by Jesus’ call to offer “life in all its fullness” and the Parable of the Lost Sheep, which affirms that no individual is overlooked in our community.

We believe that nurturing curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking is integral to spiritual growth. Our values — empathy, honesty, respect, and responsibility — underpin every aspect of school life and support the spiritual flourishing of all.

Through our wider SMSC offer, we commit to providing a rich spiritual life that includes Religious Studies, PSHE, and daily opportunities for collective worship. We also value staff spirituality, offering space to share “miracle moments” and enjoy stillness, joy, and wonder together.

3. Our understanding of Spirituality

Our shared understanding of spirituality is:

Capacity and openness to:

- reflect on one’s beliefs, perspectives and experiences;
- value and respect other people’s world views;
- enjoy being in the present;
- experience awe and wonder;
- question the unknown;
- explore that which lies beyond;
- feel a sense of belonging through connections with self, others, ‘the other’ and the world.

4. Our Framework: Windows, Mirrors and Doors

We use the analogy of windows, mirrors, and doors to guide our understanding and cultivation of spirituality:

- Windows – Opportunities to observe and reflect on the world: Where do we find awe and wonder? What inspires us? What do we question?
- Mirrors – Opportunities for self-reflection: What do we believe? How do we understand our place in the world? What brings us joy and purpose?

- Doors – Opportunities for action: How do our beliefs shape the way we live? How do we practise courageous advocacy and service?

5. Where Spirituality Is Found in School Life

Spiritual development permeates all aspects of school life, including:

- Collective Worship and Morning Prep: Daily acts of silence, prayer, and reflection
- Special Services: Celebrations for Easter, Christmas, and Harvest; inclusive staff Communion; Jumma Prayer for our Muslim community
- Curriculum: “Think Big Questions” embedded across subjects, spark exploration of life’s deeper meaning
- Co-curricular Life: INVOLVE clubs, the Arts, trips and visits, ‘Experiences for all’, student leadership
- Relationships and Ethos: Our values, expectations, and pastoral care model compassion, justice, and inclusion

6. Developing Spirituality in Students and Staff

We aim to:

- Create space for daily reflection and stillness
- Encourage exploration of ‘Big Questions’
- Nurture gratitude, imagination, and creativity
- Foster a sense of awe and appreciation for our precious gift of life and the experiences it brings us
- Promote meaningful relationships, community, and courageous advocacy
- Provide frequent opportunities for students to explore, express and share their feelings
- Encourage each other to admit mistakes and to apologise when necessary. Recognising and owning up to faults is an important healing and redemptive process.
- Invite students and staff to connect with their beliefs and with something greater than themselves
- Support charitable acts and social justice projects that bring faith and values into action

7. Fostering spiritual development through our Trust values

Students at Trinity Academy Cathedral are growing to be	
Empathetic- We recognise the importance of understanding the feelings and experiences of others	Compassionate towards others near and far, and loving by their just actions and forgiving words
Respectful-We value each member of community, showing regard for others and celebrating difference.	Students will grow to be learned finding good in all things and become wise in the way they use their learning for the common good

Honest - We understand that truthfulness and integrity are key to building a strong community.	Eloquent and truthful in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world
Responsible - We are committed to caring for ourselves, our community and the world around us.	Intentional in the way that they live and use the earth's resources, guided by their conscience and prophetic in the example they set to others

8. Monitoring and Review

Spiritual development is overseen by the senior leadership team, including the Vice Principal Teaching and Learning, RS Curriculum Leader and Chaplain. This policy will be reviewed every three years and evaluated through:

- Curriculum audits
- Student voice and surveys
- Staff reflection opportunities
- Review of collective worship and wider school life
- Partnership with our Church of England Advisor

9. Conclusion

Our Christian vision shapes every aspect of life at Trinity Academy Cathedral. We understand spiritual development not as an add-on, but as central to fulfilling our vision of nurturing kind, courteous, and confident young people. Through our carefully designed curriculum and co-curriculum, our students are encouraged to become knowledgeable, aspirational, and courageous advocates for social justice.

Spiritual development enables our young people to:

- Build strong relationships grounded in empathy, honesty, respect and responsibility
- Engage with meaningful questions and seek wisdom through reflection
- Celebrate diversity and community in an inclusive environment
- Live out our values in service to others, locally and globally

By rooting every experience — from collective worship to INVOLVE clubs, to 'Think Big Questions in lessons — in a rich understanding of spirituality, we aim to ensure that all students, regardless of background or belief, can experience the fullness of life that Jesus promises.