Spirituality in the Maths curriculum

September 2024

Spirituality is about seeking a meaningful connection with something bigger than oneself, which can result in positive emotions, such as peace, awe and wonder. Spirituality enables our children to be happy; to flourish, to succeed and to live life in all its fullness.

Planned opportunities	
In maths, planned opportunities for spirituality focus on enhancing children's understanding of themselves, their relationships with others, their connection to the world, and their grasp of concepts beyond the immediate and tangible. This holistic approach ensures that maths contributes to both intellectual and spiritual growth. • Exploring patterns and connections in mathematics, fostering a sense of wonder and awe at the beauty and order in the universe. • By considering pattern, order, symmetry and scale both man-made and in the natural world. • By appreciating the beauty of shape and space. Overall, by integrating spirituality into maths, we can nurture well-rounded individuals who are not only proficient in mathematical skills but also spiritually aware and connected. This approach prepares children to engage with the world thoughtfully and reflectively, appreciating the beauty and interconnectedness of the universe.	
	Maths lessons help children develop a deeper sense of self-awareness and confidence. In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), foundational skills such as number recognition, subitizing, and one-to-one correspondence lay the groundwork for mathematical understanding. These activities encourage children to explore their abilities, fostering a sense of achievement and self-confidence. As students progress to more complex topics like place value and calculation in later years, they learn persistence and problem-solving, which build resilience and a growth mindset. The development of this continues throughout school.

	Mathematics provides numerous opportunities for collaboration and mutual support. Group activities and problem-solving tasks require children to communicate, share strategies, and work together. For example, in Year 2, while learning about geometry, students work in pairs to create shapes using various materials, fostering cooperation and empathy. In Year 5, collaborative work on statistics, such as conducting surveys and analysing data, reinforces the importance of teamwork and collective inquiry.
	Mathematics connects children to the broader world, enhancing their appreciation of its structures and patterns. Understanding concepts like measurement and data collection helps children see the relevance of maths in everyday life and the natural world. For example, in Year 2, students measure the growth of plants in a garden project, promoting an appreciation for the environment and illustrating the role of maths in understanding it. Similarly, in Year 6, students use their understanding of percentages to measure the growth of mould on bread. By exploring mathematical concepts through real-world contexts, children develop a sense of curiosity and wonder about the world around them.
	Maths also offers moments for reflection and deeper thinking. The study of geometry, with its exploration of shapes, symmetry, and spatial reasoning, can inspire awe and wonder about the inherent order and beauty of the universe. Discussions on the infinite nature of numbers and the concept of zero can stimulate profound reflections on existence and the mysteries of the universe. Encouraging children to reflect on these abstract concepts nurtures their spiritual awareness and curiosity.