Spirituality in the computing curriculum

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 computing, 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 digital realm. This holistic approach ensures that computing contributes to both intellectual and spiritual growth. • Reflecting on the ethical use of technology; considering the impact of digital interactions on personal and communal well-being. • By wondering at the power of the digital age e.g. use of the internet and social media. • By understanding the advantages and limitations of ICT. • By using the internet as a gateway to big life issues. • An opportunity for children to develop their creativity, critical thinking and ethical awareness. • Creation of digital media that explores themes such as belief systems, social justice, and environmental issues. • Using technology for spiritual practices encourages children to develop their spiritual awareness and helps them connect with themselves and others in meaningful ways. Overall, by integrating spirituality in computing we can nurture well-rounded individuals who are not only proficient in digital skills but also spiritually aware and connected. This approach prepares children to navigate the digital world with integrity, empathy, and a thoughtful understanding of their place in the global community.

	Computing lessons help children understand their digital identity and presence. From Reception, E-safety lessons on online relationships and online reputation encourage self-awareness and responsible digital behavior. For instance, children learn the importance of protecting personal information and reflecting on their online actions. This is crucial, especially when all online actions and content leave a digital footprint. This awareness fosters a sense of integrity and accountability. As they progress, children engage in programming activities where they experience the satisfaction of creating and problem-solving, which bolsters self-confidence and a sense of achievement.
	Computing provides numerous opportunities for collaboration and teamwork. In activities like pair programming or group projects, children learn to communicate effectively, share ideas, and support one another. For example, in Year 1, children work as a pair to type and change text. In Year 3, while learning about computer systems and networks, students work in teams to set up a classroom network. This fosters cooperation, empathy, and mutual respect. In Year 5, children can collaborate on digital media projects, such as creating a class blog or a multimedia presentation, reinforcing the value of teamwork and shared success.
	Computing connects children to the broader world, expanding their horizons. From learning about global digital citizenship to understanding the impact of technology on society, children develop a broader perspective. For instance, in Reception and Year 1, children look at technology immediately available to them. This can inspire a sense of wonder about technological advancements and a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of the world. In Year 4, children explore the concept of networks by looking at the internet's role in global communication.
	Computing lessons can include reflective and mindfulness practices that contribute to spiritual growth. For example, in Year 6, while working on complex programming tasks, such as creating and evaluating a game or creating web pages, children can be encouraged to take mindful breaks, reflecting on their learning process and creative journey. This practice helps them connect with their inner selves, fostering a sense of calm and purpose. Additionally, discussing the ethical implications of technology, such as AI and data privacy, can stimulate profound reflections on the role of technology in shaping human values and society.