Vine Spirituality Policy

This is a mandatory policy that has been personalised to reflect local arrangements for

HOWBRIDGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL

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> I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit
>
> JOHN 15:5

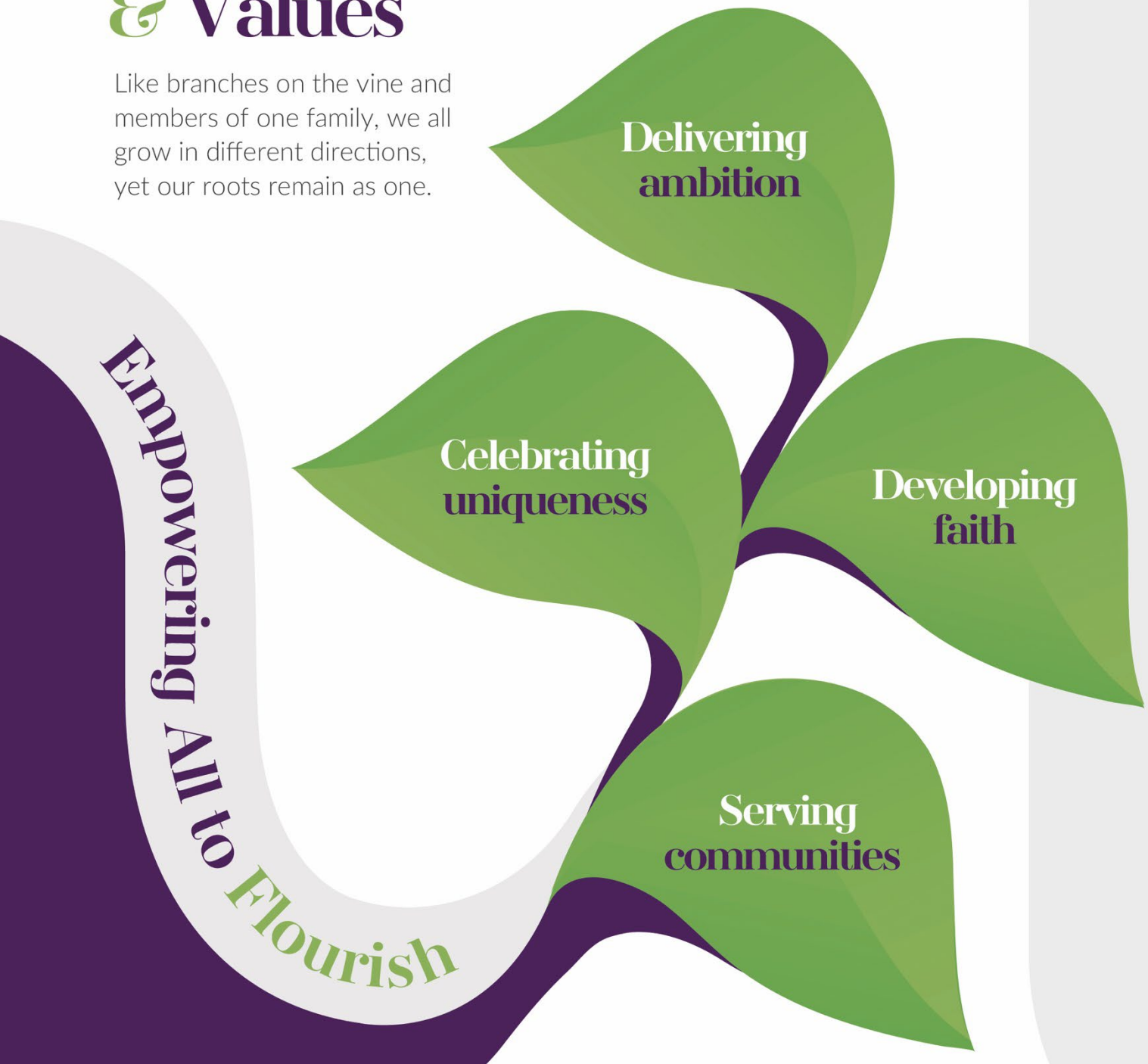
"Together We Shine"

At Howbridge C of E Junior School, our whole school community of children, parents, staff and governors come together so that we can live out the words of the gospel according to Matthew, 5:16, in our everyday lives:

'Your light must shine before people so that they will see the good that you do'

Vision & Values

Like branches on the vine and members of one family, we all grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one.



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1. What is spirituality?

Spirituality is at the heart of being human. It is something that we feel inside of ourselves.

In Vine schools, we aim to develop five aspects of spirituality:

- Self: Understanding ourselves and our strengths as a unique individual.
- Others: Understanding our relationships with others and how we can influence these.
- The wider natural world: Considering and responding to creation and the natural world around us.
- Beyond: Considering the possibility that there may be something 'greater that us' that may be outside of our everyday experiences and understanding.
- Our responses to Big Questions

2. How do Vine schools seek to support the spiritual development of pupils?

Vine schools seek to support Spiritual development by creating opportunities for pupils to:

- Understand their own unique strengths
- Think carefully about their relationships with others
- Appreciate the wonder of the world around them.
- Consider the possibility of 'something greater than ourselves'
- Reflect upon Big Questions
- Make sense of their own place in the world.
- Consider that some things may be beyond explaining through words
- Be curious and open-minded
- Be open to engaging in new experiences

3. Spirituality within Collective Worship in Vine schools

The opportunity for pupils and adults to develop spiritually is an integral part of Collective Worship. Spiritual moments can be experienced through:

- Being still and quiet
- Having time to think
- Singing
- Listening to music or listening to others singing
- Having opportunities to pray
- Listening to others pray
- Focusing on a candle or light
- Reflecting on a story or a Bible reading

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- Hearing an inspirational story
- Reflecting on a 'Big Question'
- Sharing thoughts and ideas with others
- Listening to the thoughts and ideas of others

4. Spirituality within Religious Education (RE) in Vine Schools

Vine schools follow the guidelines for Spiritual development set out in the Religious Education Statement of Entitlement for Church of England Schools (January 2026). In Vine Schools, the Spiritual development of pupils within RE is promoted through:

- Reflecting on Big Questions
- Considering beliefs found within religious texts
- Considering deep questions about the nature of existence
- Reflecting on the ways in which religious beliefs are lived out

5. Spirituality within the wider curriculum in Vine Schools

Vine schools aim to create opportunities to nurture the Spiritual development of pupils within the wider curriculum by:

- Taking time to stop and wonder
- Giving opportunities to think, observe and reflect
- Creating opportunities for pupils to express their own thoughts and observations
- Creating moments for pupils to consider how something makes them feel
- Acknowledging that questions do not always have answers

6. Model to add personalised information for individual schools

Howbridge CofE Junior School: Our shared understanding of Spirituality:
Spirituality is something that we feel inside. Experiencing spiritual moments helps us to understand ourselves more deeply, think more carefully about our relationships with others, appreciate the wonder of the world around us, reflect on Big Questions, and consider the possibility of something greater than ourselves.

Howbridge CofE Junior School): Our approach to Spirituality
At Howbridge CofE Junior School we use a Windows, Mirrors, Doors and Candle approach to help pupils discuss the different aspects of spirituality. This approach is based on the work of Rebecca Nye (2009).

- Windows: Looking out at the beauty of the world
- Mirrors: Thinking about yourself and how you feel
- Doors: Thinking about others and how they feel
- Candle: Thinking beyond the things we can see
- Consideration of Big Questions

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Howbridge CofE Junior School: Our language of spirituality:
Stillness, quiet, appreciate, beauty, wonder, reflect, consider, unique, response, deep questions, flourish, experience, window, mirror, door, candle

Howbridge CofE Junior School: Our wider curriculum opportunities for Spiritual Development:

Howbridge CofE Junior School recognise Spiritual Development as a 'Golden Thread' that runs throughout the wider curriculum. The schools seek to encourage the following opportunities for pupils to experience spiritual development:

English: Exploring feelings, perspectives, beliefs and diversity within texts. Reflecting on poetry and stories. Experiencing being lost in a story. Experiencing creativity when writing.
Maths: Appreciating patterns in number. Wondering at the symmetry within shapes and properties of shapes.
History: Reflecting on the lives of people living in different times. Considering decisions and choices made in the past.
Geography: Wondering at the beauty and scale of natural landscapes. Experiencing a connection to the environment. Responding to nature.
Science: Wondering at scientific observations and processes. Reflecting on life cycles. Considering questions about the origins of the universe. Reflecting on the interconnectedness of all living things.
Art: Wondering at works of art. Reflecting on the lives and work of different artists. Responding to shapes, form, textures and colours. Creating own unique artwork.
Music: Listening and responding to different kinds of music. Creating own unique music.
Design and Technology: Wonder at discovering how something works. Appreciate beauty in design. Creating and building own unique designs.
PE: Wondering at the joy of movement. Appreciating the capabilities of the human body. Experiencing the value of playing as a team. Building deeper relationships with others.
PSHE: Reflecting on own feelings and the feelings of others. Consider own actions and the impact they can have.
MFL: Wondering at the sound and structure of the words of another language. Reflecting on the interconnectedness of the world.

Further information and examples of Spiritual Development in Howbridge CofE Junior School can be found on our website.

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