ELVEDEN C of E PRIMARY ACADEMY

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16



Spiritual Development at Elveden

Helping Children Flourish

Staff Meeting 2026

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

MATTHEW 5:16

A Quick Reflection

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

Think of a moment that made you stop and say...

WOW!

- A place
- A person
- An experience
- A moment in school

Pair and share for 2 minutes



What is Spiritual Development?

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

Spiritual development is about:

- **Who we are** – our sense of identity and value
- **How we relate to ourselves** – self-awareness and inner strength
- **How we relate to others** – kindness, empathy and community
- **How we relate to the world** – curiosity, awe and wonder
- **How we explore meaning and purpose** – the bigger questions in life

More than academic achievement ♡



"Spirituality influences all we do at Elveden.
It is what breathes life into our whole school community
and enables us to live life in all its fullness."

What Does a Spiritually Developed Child Look Like?

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

Children who can:

- **Reflect** on feelings and understand themselves
- **Build** positive relationships
- **Ask** big questions
- **Show** curiosity and a sense of wonder
- **Understand** right and wrong
- **Respect** different viewpoints
- **Feel** connected to something bigger than themselves
- **Have** the confidence to make a positive difference

Curious
Kind
Reflective
Brave
Compassionate
Hopeful



Why Does This Matter?

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

Spiritual development helps children develop:

- **Resilience** – to cope with life's challenges
- **Self-awareness** – to understand who they are
- **Reflection** – to think deeply about their experiences
- **Sensitivity to others** – to show empathy and compassion
- **Meaning and purpose** – to find what really matters
- **Hope** – to look to the future with confidence

Helping children flourish – in school and in life.



"Spiritual development helps children to flourish both academically and personally, enabling them to live life in all its fullness."

The Elveden Approach

Windows, Mirrors and Doors

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16



Windows

What makes us wonder?

Windows help children to notice the beauty, mystery and opportunity in the world around them. They open up new horizons and spark curiosity, awe and wonder.



Mirrors

What makes us think?

Mirrors help children to look inwards and reflect. They encourage self-awareness, big questions and a deeper understanding of who they are, what they value and how they see the world.



Doors

What makes us act?

Doors encourage children to turn their reflections into action. They inspire courage, compassion and a desire to make a positive difference in our school, our community and the wider world.

Together, they help our children to explore, reflect and respond as they grow spiritually.

Our Spiritual Collective Worships

Real people. Real stories. A deeper connection.

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

At Elveden, our spiritual collective worships provide special times for teachers, children, all stakeholders to share life stories, reflect on big questions and explore inner spirituality.

In Our Spiritual Shoes

A time for members of our school community to share their own life journeys, the experiences that have shaped them and what they have learned along the way. By listening to different stories, we grow in understanding, empathy and respect.

"Walk a mile in someone else's shoes and you might see the world differently."



Listen
Share
Respect
Grow
♡

A Book That Changed My Life

A time for individuals to share a book that has had a special impact on them, and how it has influenced their values, choices or understanding of the world. These stories remind us of the power of words, the value of reading and how books can inspire, comfort and transform lives.



Inspire
Reflect
Belong
Discover
♡



SIAMS:
What Are Inspectors Looking For?

A clear understanding of spirituality and its impact.

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

SIAMS looks at how well our Christian vision enables everyone to flourish, with a particular focus on spiritual development.

Inspectors explore how spirituality is understood, planned for, nurtured and lived out across every aspect of school life.

It's about the whole child – head, heart and hands.

♡

Inspectors look for:

- A clear and shared understanding of spirituality.
- Opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum.
- Children asking big questions and exploring meaning and purpose.
- How spirituality is woven through relationships, daily life and decision making.
- The impact of spiritual development on behaviour, attitudes, wellbeing and aspiration.
- An inclusive and respectful approach, where everyone is valued and can flourish.
- A distinctly Christian vision that shapes and enables the school's life and work.
- Evidence that spiritual development makes a real difference to pupils and adults.



What SIAMS Said About Elveden

Our 2023 SIAMS inspection highlighted...

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

- A **Christian vision** is understood by all and lives out through daily life.
- **Children's spiritual development is a strength** of the school.
- **Windows, Mirrors and Doors** are embedded and have a real impact.
- **Collective worship** is inclusive, meaningful and highly valued by pupils and adults.
- The school provides **rich opportunities for reflection,** wonder and big questions.
- Elveden is **a caring, inclusive community** where everyone is encouraged to flourish.

> "Spirituality permeates conversations, interactions and learning across the school."
>
> SIAMS 2023



Ofsted Expectations

High quality education for the whole child.

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

Ofsted looks at the education we provide and how well we support the development of every child.

Their framework recognises that schools should develop not only academic success, but also the personal development, behaviour and attitudes of pupils.

This is everyone's responsibility. Not just RE.

Ofsted looks for schools that:

- Reflect on the school's **Christian vision and values** and how these are lived out.
- Support pupils to develop **positive attitudes, resilience** and **self-belief**.
- Provide a **broad and balanced curriculum** that nurtures the whole child.
- **Encourage curiosity, imagination and creativity.**
- Enable pupils to **ask big questions** about life, faith and the world around them.
- Create a **positive and respectful culture** where everyone feels valued and included.



What We Do at Elveden

Spiritual development is woven through all that we do.

Let Their Light Shine ♡

MATTHEW 5:16

At Elveden, spiritual development is not a separate subject, but a thread that runs through every aspect of school life.

It happens in our curriculum, our relationships, our environment and our wider opportunities, helping every child to grow into the person God created them to be.

Spirituality permeates conversations, interactions and learning. ♡

Collective Worship	Daily worship, including class worship, whole school worship, '*In Our Spiritual Shoes*' and '*A Book That Changed My Life*'.
Religious Education	A high-quality RE curriculum that explores big questions, different faiths and worldviews, and encourages respectful dialogue.
Forest School	Time in nature to wonder, reflect, build resilience and feel connected to God's creation.
OPAL	Play and outdoor learning that nurtures imagination, relationships and a sense of belonging.
Spiritual Classroom	Calm, welcoming spaces where everyone feels valued, safe and able to be themselves.
Wellbeing Garden	A quiet space for reflection, prayer and time to be still.
Courageous Advocacy	Opportunities for pupils to make a difference in our school, local community and beyond.
Everyday Conversations	Moments in daily life – in lessons, at play and around school – to explore meaning, purpose and what really matters.



Spiritual Development Across Our Curriculum

It happens everywhere, not just in RE!

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

Every subject can open a window to wonder, a mirror to self and a door to new possibilities.

English
Exploring big questions through stories, poetry and discussion.

Maths
Wonder at patterns, problem solving and the beauty of creation in numbers.

Science
Awe and wonder about the natural world and our place within it.

Art
Expressing emotions, ideas and beliefs creatively.

Music
Exploring meaning through sound, worship and self-expression.

Geography
Developing a global perspective and respect for our world and its people.

History
Learning from the past, celebrating diversity and exploring what shapes our world today.

Forest School
Time in nature to reflect, be still and feel connected to God's creation.

PSHE
Building self-awareness, kindness, resilience and respectful relationships.

PE
Developing perseverance, teamwork and a healthy mind, body and spirit.



"Spiritual development is woven through all we do, helping children to live life in all its fullness."

A Reminder: The Right to Withdraw

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from RE.

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

Collective Worship

Parents can request that their child does not take part in collective worship. They do not need to give a reason.

Religious Education

Parents can also withdraw their child from RE lessons, either partly or fully.



Key points:

- Requests should be **discussed with parents** and referred to SLT.
- Children should **never be made to feel different or excluded**.
- Withdrawal requests are **rare**.
- We always seek **positive, open dialogue** with families.

Where Can We Improve?

Always learning. Always growing.

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16

Our 2023 SIAMS report identified one key development area:

"Develop wider opportunities for silence, stillness, reflection, prayer and music."



How could this look in our classrooms?

- Reflection journals
- Quiet thinking time
- Music for reflection
- Prayer spaces
- Outdoor reflection opportunities
- End-of-day gratitude moments

"Better tomorrows, brighter futures, together."

Table Discussion

Share ideas. Listen to others. Grow together.

Let Their Light Shine

MATTHEW 5:16



What are we already doing well?

What could we do more consistently?

What is one practical idea you can take away?

10 minutes

Final Thought

Spiritual development is not another subject.
It happens when children...

Let Their Light Shine ♡

MATTHEW 5:16

WONDER → **REFLECT** → **RESPOND**



Helping every child at Elveden to...

Let Their Light Shine ♡