

Spirituality across the curriculum – Binbrook Church of England Primary School

Spirituality in Art & Design

Spirituality features in art and design as it allows children to explore and express their personal beliefs, emotions, and experiences in a creative way. Art and design provides a platform for children to connect with their inner selves and develop a sense of empathy and compassion towards others. It allows children to contemplate the deeper questions of life such as the meaning of existence, identity, and morality, and encourages them to develop their own unique perspective in their work.

Spirituality in art and design can be found in our curriculum through various forms, such as using symbolism (Pentecost doves) or metaphors to represent spiritual beliefs or emotions (for example, use of colour and motifs) exploring the beauty and wonders of nature, or creating artwork that promotes a sense of unity, harmony, and peaceful coexistence. Through art and design, pupils can develop and strengthen their spirituality, leading to greater self-awareness, emotional maturity, and personal growth.

For example at Binbrook, a sense of pattern, sequence and order is experienced through the study of artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Piet Mondrian and Wassily Kandinsky.

Spirituality in Computing

Spirituality features in computing as it can provide an opportunity for children to develop their creativity (digital painting), critical thinking and ethical awareness (stereotypical social media mind-set). Computing can promote spirituality through the exploration and creation of digital media that explores themes such as belief systems, social justice, and environmental issues. For instance, children can use computing tools to create digital art or music that resonates with their spiritual beliefs.

Using technology for spiritual practices encourages children to develop their spiritual awareness and helps them connect with themselves and others in meaningful ways.

For example at Binbrook, a sense of choice, decision making and personal responsibility is experienced through coding, programming and internet safety.

Spirituality in Design & Technology

Spirituality features in design and technology as it provides the platform for children to create artefacts that reflect their personal beliefs, values and experiences. Through designing and creating objects, children can express their spirituality and explore their connection with nature, other people and their own emotions.

Design and technology can also promote spiritual growth by encouraging children to develop empathy towards others, consider ethical (local/seasonal products and Fairtrade) and environmental implications of their creations, and work collaboratively with others to address social issues. Children can use their technological skills to create designs and solutions that tackle poverty, sustainability, and justice issues. Moreover, design and technology can also provide opportunities for children to engage in contemplative and meditative practices, as they explore the inner world of creativity and imagination.

For example at Binbrook, a sense of enquiry and open mindedness is experienced through the design and evaluation process of Design and Technology topics.

Spirituality in English

Spirituality features in primary school English as it provides an opportunity for children to explore and express their innermost thoughts, feelings and experiences through literature. In reading and writing, children can connect with themes related to their spirituality, such as love, compassion, social justice, and self-awareness.

Through a critical analysis of literature (quality texts, Library areas, environment), children can explore philosophical and spiritual concepts such as existentialism, the meaning of life, or the nature of good and evil. At the same time, they can develop their inner world, empathise with characters, and create their narratives. English can also provide a platform for children to make sense of their experiences, navigate anxieties, and process grief through writing stories, poems or journals.

Teaching children mindfulness practices such as noticing and accepting present moments, and meditation can have a positive impact on their spiritual growth. Overall, English provides an opportunity for children to explore their spirituality in meaningful ways, contribute to emotional and social well-being and promote their personal growth.

At Binbrook, our quality texts are chosen to enrich our children's learning experience and are at the heart of the curriculum giving children the opportunities to become aware of something more to life than meets the eye.

Spirituality in Geography

The study of geography is not limited to merely the physical environment but also includes the social, cultural, and spiritual aspects of the world. Geography has a significant role in teaching children about their place in the world and their connection to the environment and others.

In geography, pupils learn about different cultures and their spiritual beliefs that shape their worldview. For example, they can explore how religion and spirituality have influenced landscape and settlement patterns such as the location of holy sites, pilgrimage routes, and the design of sacred buildings. Additionally, they can examine how religion and spirituality have governed attitudes towards natural resources and the environment, including the practices of environmental conservation and preservation.

Furthermore, geography can provide the opportunity for children to engage in mindfulness and contemplation practices related to nature and their environment. Such exercises can foster a spiritual connection and appreciation for the environment and help children develop a sense of responsibility towards the planet.

Spirituality plays a crucial role in geography at Binbrook, providing children with a broader understanding and empathy of their place in the world and of other cultures, promoting harmony and reverence for the environment.

Spirituality in History

Spirituality features in history as it provides children an opportunity to connect with the past, developing a sense of identity and belonging. Historic events and people can provide insight into the spiritual values and beliefs of past generations and societies. By learning about the rituals, beliefs, and values of earlier civilisations, children can develop empathy,

understanding and appreciation for different cultural expressions of spirituality.

In addition, the study of history can expose children to the struggles, resilience, and courage of individuals who stood up for their religious and spiritual beliefs, and fought for change. Children can learn about the role of spiritual values in movements for social justice.

Through the study of history and comparative religions, children can develop critical thinking skills, ethical awareness, and a personal sense of spirituality that transcends their immediate environment. Overall, history provides an opportunity for children to connect with the spiritual traditions of the past, understand their significance, and develop a deeper sense of appreciation, empathy and identity.

Spirituality in French

Spirituality features in French as it allows children to connect with the cultural and linguistic significance of the French language. Through the learning of French, children may encounter spiritual concepts, beliefs, and values intrinsic to French culture, such as the sacredness of Catholicism, and the importance of mindfulness, gratitude, and emotional intelligence.

French language, etymology and literature provide an opportunity for children to connect with spiritual themes such as love, loss, identity, and self-expression. Through reading and writing literary works, children can engage in critical analysis and explore philosophical and spiritual values.

French food, music and other cultural expressions can promote a sense of belonging and offer a direct experience of spirituality in a way that transcends language barriers. Through the French language teaching at Binbrook, pupils can connect with themselves, others, and the world in different, meaningful and spiritual ways, leading to greater self-awareness and personal growth.

Spirituality in Maths

Spirituality plays an important role in mathematics. Mathematics is about more than just numbers and calculations. It is a way of understanding the world and our place in it. Pupils are taught to approach mathematics with a spiritual mindset, they are encouraged to see patterns, connections, and meaning in the world around them. This can help them to feel more connected to the world and to develop a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives.

For example, pupils can be encouraged to see mathematics as a tool for exploring the structure and order of things - even things as infinite as the universe! Pupils are taught to appreciate the beauty and elegance of mathematical concepts such as symmetry, proportion, and balance. They are also encouraged to see the interconnectedness of different mathematical concepts and to use this understanding to explore the patterns and relationships in the world around them.

By incorporating spirituality into mathematics at Binbrook it helps students develop a sense of wonder, purpose, and connection to the world around them.

Spirituality in Music

Spirituality features in music as it provides children with an opportunity to explore and connect with their inner self and emotions in a meaningful and creative way. Through music, children can develop skills related to attention and appreciation of present moments, self-expression, and empathy towards others.

Music can provide children with the tools to explore existential concepts related to spirituality, such as the meaning of life, the nature of the universe and the significance of emotions. By exploring different genres of music, children can connect with themes related to compassion, love, hope and joy, and develop their emotional intelligence.

Music can guide children on how to tap into their inner narrative, transcendence, and connection to oneself, others and the universe.

Overall, music can help children explore their spirituality, develop their emotional maturity and empathy toward others, leading to stronger personal bonds and a deeper connection with the world around them.

Spirituality in Physical Education

Spirituality can be defined as the connection or relationship a person has with something greater than themselves. Incorporating spirituality in primary school physical education can have numerous benefits for children, such as enhancing their well-being, calming their minds, and promoting mindfulness.

One way to incorporate spirituality in physical education classes is by encouraging children to appreciate nature during outdoor activities. Activities like orienteering, forest school, exploring the local environment around them and spending time outdoors can help children feel a sense of awe and wonder, sparking curiosity about the world around them.

In addition, incorporating quiet, mindful activities such as yoga, meditation, or deep breathing can help children develop a greater sense of inner peace and tranquillity. This can help them learn to focus their minds, regulate their emotions, and stay present in the moment. These practices can teach children self-awareness and emotional regulation.

In conclusion, incorporating spirituality in physical education classes in primary schools can have a positive impact on the well-being of children, helping them feel more connected to the world around them and promoting their emotional and mental health.

Spirituality in Religious Education

Spirituality features prominently in religious education at Binbrook. Although the majority of our curriculum is learning about Christianity, the aim of religious education is not to impose or endorse any particular set of beliefs or practices, but to provide children with a framework to understand and respect the diverse spiritual and religious beliefs of different people.

Through religious education, children can explore different religious traditions, their teachings, beliefs, and practices, and embark on their journey of self-discovery and personal growth. Religious education provides children with an opportunity to learn about their place in the world, the ethical and moral values they should cultivate, and the ways they can connect with themselves, others, and a higher power.

Religious education can provide children with a space to develop their emotional intelligence, empathy towards others and themselves, and develop a sense of openness and respect towards different cultures, religions, and worldviews. Overall, religious education at Binbrook guides children towards greater self-knowledge, and helps them cultivate a deep sense of connection with the world, resulting in greater emotional and spiritual awareness that can benefit them throughout their lives.

Spirituality in Science

Spirituality features in science as it provides children with an opportunity to explore the wonders and mysteries of the natural world. Science can help children connect with their spirituality through the study of natural phenomena, such as the cycles of life and death, and the beauty and complexity of the natural world.

Children can work scientifically by exploring the interconnectedness of the universe, the power and intelligence of nature, and develop a sense of awe, wonder and reverence for the world around them. Science can also help children understand complex spiritual concepts, such as the interconnectedness of all things, the nature of consciousness and the limits of human knowledge.

Moreover, science can also help children develop empathy for other living beings and cultivate a sense of responsibility towards environmental sustainability. By studying science, children can learn about the importance of compassion, kindness, and carefulness.

Overall, science at Binbrook can provide a framework for children to develop their spiritual curiosity, wonder, empathy, and environmental responsibility, leading to greater personal growth and awareness.