



Spirituality Within Benson CE Primary

As a Church of England school, we believe deeply that children grow and learn best when rooted in the Christian values that underpin our ethos: understanding, peace, love, forgiveness, kindness, and wisdom.

We also believe that education is about more than what children learn (crucial though we believe academic achievement to be). We believe education is also about nurturing children's spirits to grow within a safe, welcoming, and loving environment that values each person as a unique individual made in the image of God.

You can't teach children's spirits – spirits grow and develop in their own way, and they follow the God-given interests and talents of each individual child. What we seek to do at Benson is to provide the conditions that make it possible for children and the staff team to explore, develop, and grow through wonder, inquisitiveness, delight, and moral reasoning.

So – whether it's through immersing ourselves in the beauty and fragility of nature through Gardening Club, Forest School, or residential; wondering at the tenderness of art, literature, and music through creative learning; listening to our own interior life through our Zones of Regulation pathways, developing prayer stations, and embedding reflection throughout the curriculum; finding our place and voice in the world through compassionate social awareness and meaningful connections with our local community; or anchoring ourselves within the wisdom of the Christian religious tradition out of which our school has grown through daily collective worship – at Benson our commitment to spirituality runs deep, and it runs through everything we do.

Spiritual growth takes bravery and courage, and it is only possible where each person feels loved, deeply welcomed, and cared for as an individual. 'There is no fear in love', wrote St John (*1 John 4:18*), and we believe spiritual growth happens best in a culture where everyone feels loved. 'Love one another as I have loved you,' taught Jesus Christ. (*John 13:34*). That is our school's vision and it underpins every part of our ethos, our strategy, and our hopes for Benson School. We want every single person in our community to feel loved and treasured, so that each of us can grow into the unique people God is calling us to be.



Working Together, Valuing Everyone, Learning For Life
'Love one another, as I have loved you' John 13 v34