

# Oakley Church of England Combined School

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Headteacher: Mrs Caroline Witton

Co-Chairs of Governors:

Mrs Michelle Hopcroft & Mr Gareth Munson



*Parvis E Glandibus Quercus*  
*'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow'*

## Spiritual Development at Oakley CE Combined School

As a Church of England school, we interpret spirituality as encompassing the 'whole being' – mind, body and spirit, in other words 'living life in all its fullness.' We also recognise that 'spiritual' is not synonymous with 'religious' and that all areas of the curriculum may contribute to children's spiritual development.

Our School Vision Statement states:

***'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow'***

We aim to grow from little acorns to mighty oaks, founded in the love of God

***'The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life.' Proverbs 11:30***

Opportunities for spiritual development are presented or naturally arise and are promoted through our rich, broad and balanced curriculum and the wider life of the school.

### Windows

Provide children with opportunities to become aware of the world in new ways; to wonder about life's 'WOWs' (things that are amazing) and 'OWs' (things that bring us up short). In this, children are learning about life in all its fullness.

### Mirrors

Provide children with opportunities to reflect on their experiences; to contemplate life's big questions and to consider some possible answers. In this way, they are learning from life by exploring their own insights and perspectives and those of others.

*'The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life' Proverbs 11:30*

Love      Honesty      Respect



## **Doors**

Provide children with opportunities to respond to all of this; to do something creative as a means of expressing, applying and further developing their thoughts and convictions. In this they are learning to live by putting into action what they are coming to believe and value.

### **Evidence of Spirituality:**

Through our fun, positive, caring and respectful environment we create children:

- with a strong sense of self belief who acknowledge others as feeling, thinking people. They develop moral purpose, empathy with others and a love of what is good.
- who enjoy good relationships with others and experience both the joy and disappointments of life, explored and underpinned through our school vision and values.
- who have a joy of learning and of life, and learn to express themselves and their feelings with empathy.
- with a '*growth mind-set*', who show imagination, curiosity and a real joy discovering new skills, self-confidence and knowledge, and who build resilience in the face of challenge.

We also encourage time for stillness and for quiet reflection.