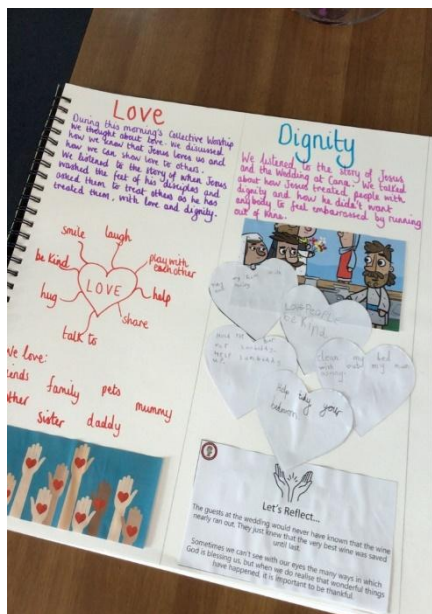


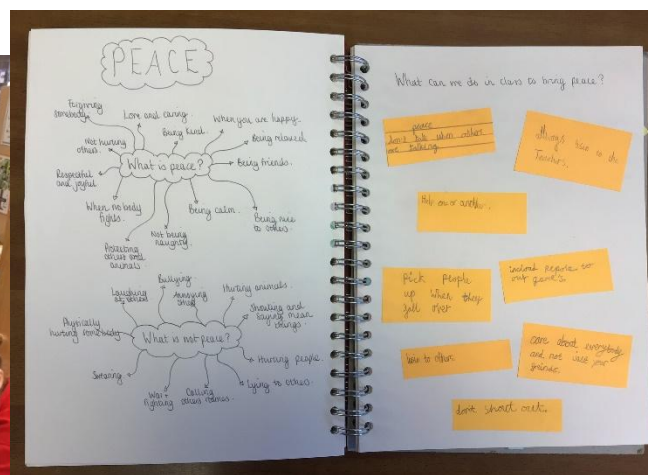
IQ3 How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?



Collective Worship is at the heart of St Matthew's and all children and staff engage fully with it. It provides the opportunity for our school community to share experiences, ideas and understanding. It is the context in which the language of spirituality, which we use as a school, is regularly and explicitly shared. Collective Worship provides the opportunity for pupils to become aware of the importance of reflection and how our positive and negative experiences can be formative. It also provides a real sense of being present (now moments) which are often linked to invitations to pray.

Through daily Collective Worship, pupils are offered a space and a place for hearing the Christian story. They are offered an understanding of worship by being invited to participate in, or observe, Christian spiritual practices such as: prayer, reading and reflection on the Bible and liturgy and are introduced to different musical traditions.

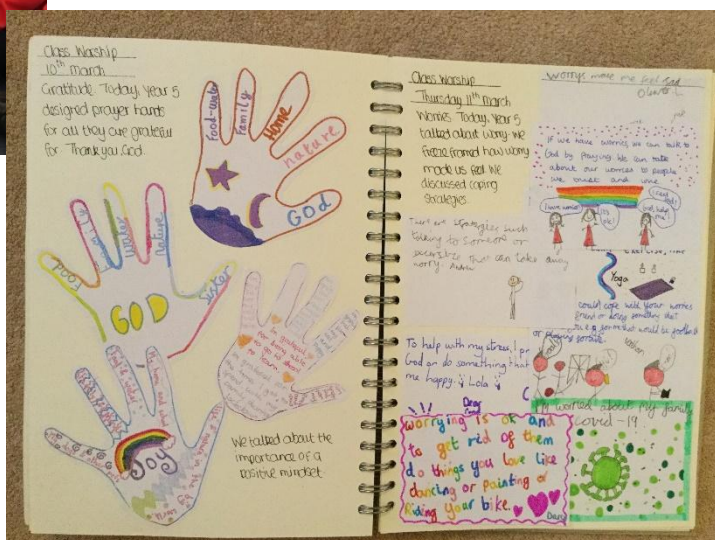
Children enjoy taking part in collective worship and relish contributing to questions linked with the theme of worship. Children enjoy making their reflections and are proud when they are included in the worship floorbooks. The reflections are inclusive and take away from the pressures of writing allowing pupils to speak from the heart.



We light our candle this morning reminding us all to...



Shine in the world and live as Jesus lived.

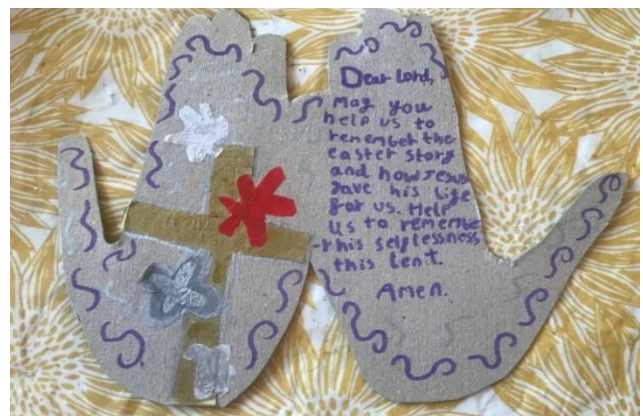
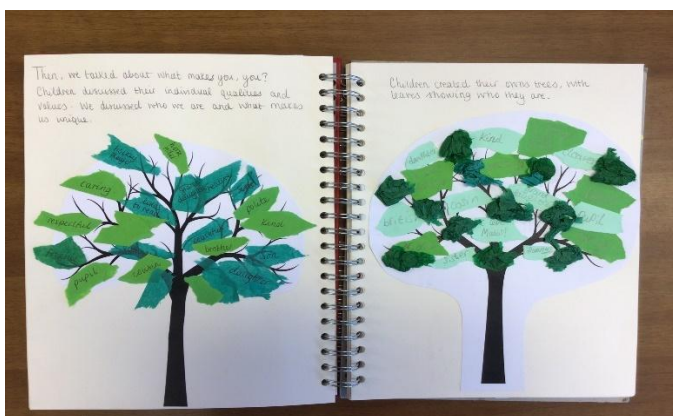


At St Matthew's, we plan meaningful opportunities for our children to develop their spirituality. Our pupils understand that spirituality involves connecting with themselves, with others, with the wider world and with God. Through carefully designed worship, curriculum links and reflective activities, children are supported in deepening these connections.

Our approach is aligned with the Christian calendar. Across the year, events and celebrations provide moments for spiritual development. For example, during Advent and Christmas, children explore the theme of sharing joy by carrying out acts of kindness within school and the wider community. These planned experiences help pupils to understand Christian values in their everyday lives and enable them to live out their faith in meaningful ways.

Spiritual Development occurs in many ways, both planned and unplanned. We aim to ensure that children:

- Have regular times in the day for quiet and reflection. This might be listening to a story, lighting a candle in worship, engaging in reflection activities in spaces around school e.g. The Rainbow Room or Nature Garden during lunchtimes.
- Will be provided with many opportunities for creativity and imagination.
- Will be provided with purposeful and regular opportunities for prayer. This can take many forms, but should include being thankful and allow the children an opportunity to open themselves up to God.
- Will have regular opportunities to explore, express and share feelings.
- Will see positive relationships role modelled around school. The importance of relationships will be reaffirmed to them. This will include clear exploration of how we talk to and relate to each other.
- Have opportunities to express awe and wonder, appreciate beauty in all its forms and appreciate connections and unity in the world.
- Will be encouraged to reflect on mistakes and say sorry, where appropriate.
- Will be encouraged to show perseverance, respect and trust and express these in practical ways.
- Have opportunities to explore 'Big Questions', particularly through RE learning. Spiritual development can be encouraged through a range of activities. These will include both planned and unplanned learning opportunities.
- Children are encouraged to ask questions and explore topics, discussing and responding to issues around them.





Worship takes priority within school and all children and staff are active participants in this. It is always distinctively Christian, reflecting our vision and allowing us to explore our Christian values and consider ways we can put them into action in our daily lives. The school liturgy for collective worship follows the gather, engage, respond and send model.

We hope that our worship helps us to learn something new, to reflect on our own feelings and behaviours and to think about how we might behave or do things differently in the future. Worship also gives us a chance to feel closer to God and to be able to talk to him through prayer and song.

At Stretton St Matthew's, we ensure that no matter where worship is held or who is leading, that collective worship is inclusive, invitational and inspirational enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually. Worship at Stretton St Matthew's involves meeting, exploring, questioning, and responding to others and, for some, to God. Our pupils, their families and other adults encounter worship that is inclusive of, and fully accessible to, all. Pupils are given the opportunity to think and ask questions and we recognise that pupils will bring their own experience to worship. Our Ethos Group are involved with the planning, leading and the evaluation of worship and support our school in developing Christian distinctiveness. Worship at our school is open to all and provides the opportunity to engage but with no compulsion to 'do anything' allowing those of different faiths and those who profess no religious faith to be present and to engage with integrity. We ensure a calm atmosphere on entry and begin worship with a prayer to welcome all. There are opportunities for both pupils and adults to ask big questions about who we are and why we do what we do. We aim to inspire and motivate pupils and adults to take action and be agents of change. We encourage them to think searchingly about their faith, beliefs and/or philosophical convictions.

Prayer is an important part of school life and is naturally woven throughout the school day. Regular opportunities for both personal and collective prayer are given. Careful consideration has been given to secure a rich learning environment which encourages pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Due to a carefully planned collective worship schedule, children have a good understanding of the different festivals in the Church calendar, which rehearse the drama of Jesus Christ in the context of the larger biblical narrative, and offer a means through which the narrative can be grasped.

