DIOCESE OF Bath&Wells
Living the story. Telling the story.

Spiritual Development

For some, spiritual development is about the development of a relationship with God, while for others it is about the development of the human spirit, and for others, a continual quest after truth. For all, it is vital to spiritual development that children and adults alike are allowed space to develop their own faith, beliefs and values.

Schools can provide children with openings for spiritual development in three vital ways:

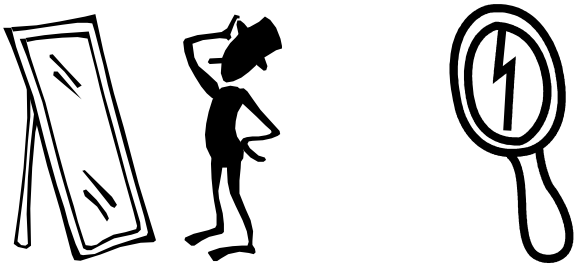
Windows

Giving children 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.



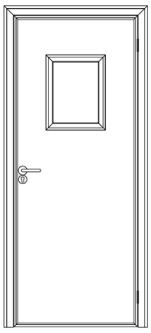
Mirrors

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



Doors

Giving children opportunity 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.



How will we know whether pupils are developing spiritually through the opportunities we provide in school?

A list of the characteristics of spiritually developing people could be a useful guide.
Such a list would include: curiosity, generosity, hopefulness, trust and truthfulness.

For a fuller list and further reading see Opening Windows – Spiritual development in the primary school, published by the Stapleford Centre