



SHAP ENDOWED CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY

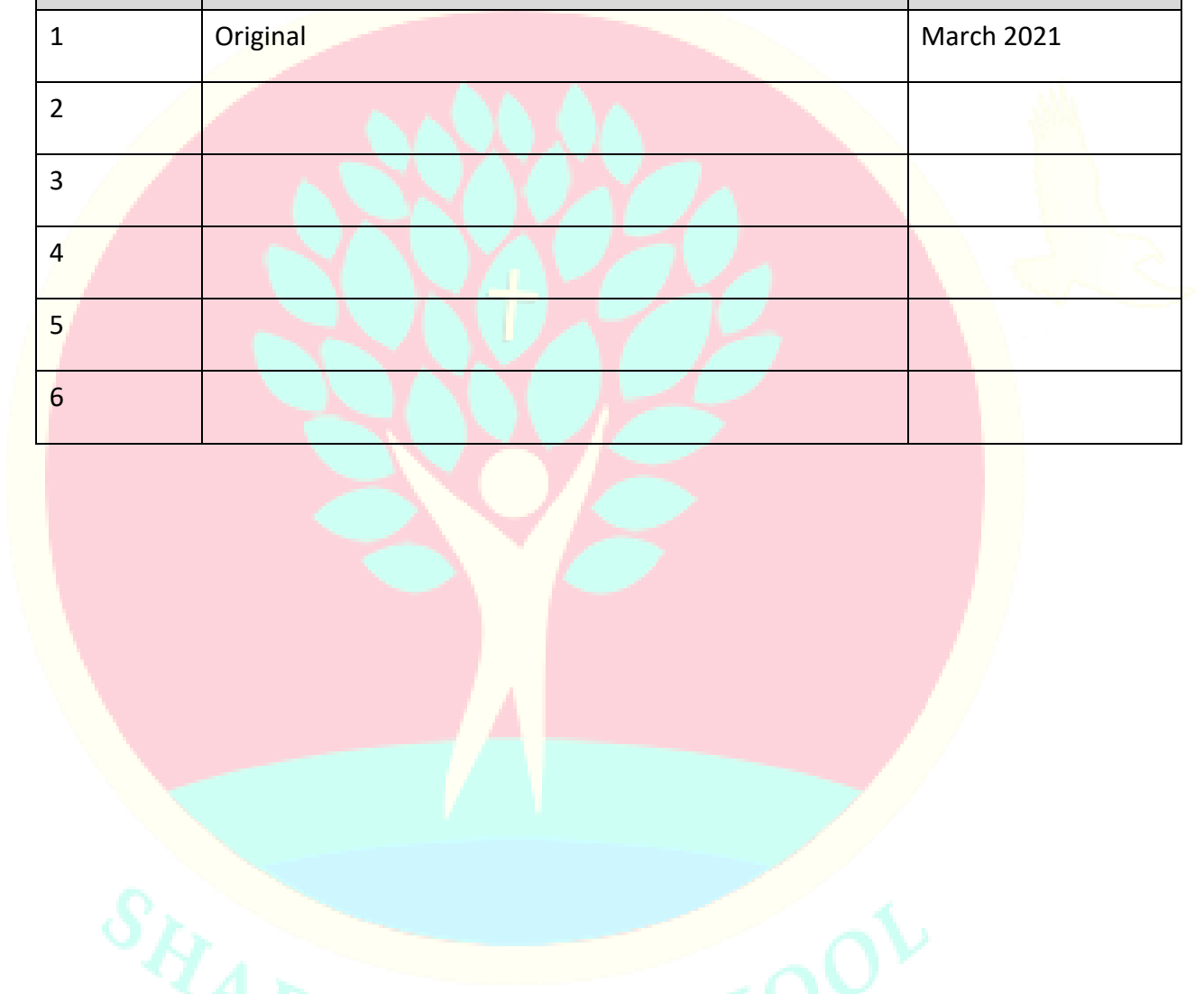
Spiritual Development Statement

Approved by:	
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Position:	Head teacher
Signed:	
Date:	Autumn 2025
Proposed review date:	Autumn 2026

REVIEW SHEET

The information in the table below details earlier versions of this document with a brief description of each review and how to distinguish amendments made since the previous version date (if any).

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	March 2021
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		



SHAP C of E SCHOOL

Spiritual Development Statement

At our school, spiritual development is about nurturing the heart, mind, and soul of every child so they may grow in wisdom, compassion, resilience, and joy. Rooted in our Christian vision: *"With children and the church at the heart of our school, we are living in harmony within our community; nurturing one another to create an environment from which all can soar"*, we believe that every child deserves a safe branch from which they can explore life, flourish fully, and take flight.

We recognise that spirituality is deeply personal and not one-size-fits-all. Inspired by Gary Thomas's *Sacred Pathways* model, we affirm that there are many different ways in which children (and adults) connect with meaning, awe, purpose, and one another. Spirituality is not confined to religious practice but is experienced in moments of wonder, reflection, action, and connection.

To support this, we have adopted a whole-school approach to spiritual development using the nine Sacred Pathways, grouped into three types:

Pathways of Wonder

- **Naturalist** – finding peace and meaning through the natural world
- **Sensate** – connecting through sights, sounds, textures, and experiences
- **Traditionalist** – valuing rituals, routines, and symbols that offer stability and memory

Pathways of Reflection

- **Thinker** – engaging the mind through big questions, curiosity, and understanding
- **Still Seeker** – seeking peace in solitude, silence, and personal space
- **Relational** – drawing close to others through empathy, kindness, and shared belonging

Pathways of Action

- **Caregiver** – showing love and spiritual purpose through acts of service
- **Activist** – driven to bring justice, courage, and change to the world
- **Enthusiast** – celebrating life with joy, creativity, and hope

Throughout the year, our worship programme intentionally explores these pathways to give children diverse spiritual entry points. Through stories, art, music, nature, service, celebration, quiet, and questioning, we create space for all to encounter something beyond themselves.

Our curriculum and subject leadership also reflect this approach, encouraging spiritual development across all areas of learning, not as a bolt-on but as a thread woven through our ethos, vision, and daily experience. Teachers use reflective questions, quiet spaces, outdoor learning, and celebration to nurture a sense of inner growth in every classroom.

We want every child to know:

- That they are loved and valued
- That they have a voice that matters
- That they can feel awe, ask questions, reflect deeply, and make a difference
- That their unique spiritual temperament is welcomed and celebrated

In doing so, we offer every child a safe, strong branch from which they can grow, rest, reflect, and ultimately soar.