



The Gryphon School

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10: 10)

Leadership Integrity Fellowship Exploration

Spirituality through the curriculum at The Gryphon School

At The Gryphon School, spirituality is understood as the development of the whole person: enabling every young person to grow in confidence, character, compassion and curiosity so that they are equipped to live life in all its fullness. Spirituality is not confined to one subject or moment; instead, it is embedded across the curriculum, relationships, experiences and culture of the school.

We frame spiritual development through four interconnected strands:

- Leadership: Self
- Integrity: Others
- Fellowship: World
- Exploration: Beyond

These strands help students understand who they are, how they relate to others, how they connect to the wider world and how they explore meaning, purpose and big questions beyond themselves.

Each of our subject areas has identified below where spirituality is threaded through the curriculum.

Business and Economics

Leadership: Self

Business and Economics at The Gryphon School supports students in developing independence, confidence and aspiration as they consider their future role in the economic world. Through enterprise activities, economic decision-making and reflection on risk and reward, students develop self-awareness and resilience.

Integrity: Others

Ethics and integrity are central to Business and Economics at Gryphon. Students explore ethical leadership, corporate responsibility, stakeholder impact and honesty in financial decision-making. Topics such as social enterprises, charities and behavioural economics prompt students to consider how business choices affect individuals and communities.

Fellowship: World

The subject naturally develops awareness of global interdependence through the study of trade, globalisation, inequality and government policy. Gryphon students examine how economic decisions affect societies at local, national and global levels, fostering empathy and responsibility toward others.

Exploration: Beyond

Students are regularly encouraged to ask big questions such as *What is a fair economy?*, *What responsibilities do businesses have to society?* and *How should wealth be distributed?*. These discussions help students explore moral and philosophical dimensions of economics, supporting deeper reflection on what it means to live life fully and responsibly.

Computing

Leadership: Self

Computing at The Gryphon School develops resilience, independence and problem-solving through coding, debugging and structured computational thinking. Students learn to persevere when solutions do not work immediately, developing confidence through trial, refinement and success. Competitions such as Robotics and enrichment opportunities allow students to take ownership of projects and leadership roles.

Integrity: Others

Digital integrity is taught explicitly at Gryphon. Students learn about responsible use of technology, online behaviour, data protection and the ethical implications of digital actions. At KS4 and KS5, students explore artificial intelligence, bias and misuse of data, encouraging moral reflection and responsible digital citizenship.

Fellowship: World

Students consider the impact of technology on global society, including how different cultures access and regulate the internet. Discussions around digital inequality, global connectivity and the power of technology foster understanding of a shared digital world.

Exploration: Beyond

Computing regularly engages students with big questions about artificial intelligence, consciousness and the future of humanity. Concepts such as the Turing Test provide opportunities for awe, wonder and philosophical reflection beyond purely technical understanding.

Creative Design

Leadership: Self

Creative Design at Gryphon nurtures independence, resilience and emotional literacy through sustained creative journeys. Students reflect on their intentions, choices and personal responses, learning to manage time, respond to challenge and develop confidence in their ideas.

Integrity: Others

Critique and discussion are central to the subject. Students learn to give and receive feedback honestly and sensitively, respecting diverse interpretations and creative voices.

Fellowship: World

Through artist and designer studies, students explore cultural identity, societal values and communication. Design is seen as a way of connecting people and expressing shared human experience.

Exploration: Beyond

Creative Design encourages students to explore meaning, emotion and purpose through visual language. Encounters with architecture, exhibitions and visiting artists inspire awe and curiosity beyond the classroom.

Drama

Leadership: Self

Drama at The Gryphon School develops confidence, self-expression and emotional awareness through rehearsal, improvisation and performance. Students are encouraged to take creative risks and reflect on their own growth as performers and individuals.

Integrity: Others

Ensemble work requires trust, cooperation and respect. Through texts such as *Refugee Boy* and work linked to Black History Month, students engage with issues of racism, identity and justice, building empathy and moral awareness.

Fellowship: World

Drama explores stories from diverse cultures and experiences, helping students understand shared human struggles and aspirations. Performances, school productions and trips strengthen a sense of community and belonging.

Exploration: Beyond

Live theatre offers moments of awe, emotional engagement and reflection. Students consider the power of storytelling to explore meaning, challenge injustice and deepen understanding of what it means to be human.

English

Leadership: Self

English at The Gryphon School is a powerful space for students to develop voice, identity and self-understanding. Through reading, writing, discussion and performance, students are encouraged to reflect on their own experiences, beliefs and emotional responses. Texts explore themes of resilience, inner strength, belonging and personal growth, helping students articulate who they are and who they are becoming. Extended writing, creative expression and spoken language opportunities build confidence, self-belief and the courage to express ideas clearly and thoughtfully.

Integrity: Others

English lessons at Gryphon place strong emphasis on empathy, moral awareness and responsibility to others. Through shared reading and discussion, students are invited to step into lives different from their own, developing compassion and understanding. GCSE texts such as *A Christmas Carol* and *An Inspector Calls* explicitly challenge students to consider social responsibility, justice and the consequences of individual actions. Respectful dialogue, peer feedback and debate encourage students to listen carefully, disagree thoughtfully and engage with integrity.

Fellowship: World

A deliberately diverse English curriculum connects students to a wide range of cultures, voices and human experiences. Texts studied across key stages explore global perspectives, social injustice, mental health, conflict, family and community. This fosters an understanding that human experiences are interconnected, helping students develop a sense of belonging to both the school community and the wider world. Enrichment activities such as reading mentors and performances further strengthen this sense of fellowship.

Exploration: Beyond

English at Gryphon is rich in big questions about love, ambition, power, morality, suffering and redemption. Students are encouraged to go beyond surface interpretation to explore meaning, symbolism and philosophical ideas within texts. Literature becomes a way to engage with questions that do not have simple answers, helping students reflect on purpose, value and what it means to live a meaningful and flourishing life. Through this, English actively supports spiritual growth and a deep engagement with life in all its fullness.

Film

Leadership: Self

Film studies at Gryphon builds confidence and reflection through analytical discussion and creative coursework. Students develop independence as they interpret and evaluate meaning within visual narratives.

Integrity: Others

Through films such as *Get Out*, *Parasite* and *District 9*, students explore representation, racism, morality and empathy. Discussion encourages thoughtful engagement with how stories shape attitudes.

Fellowship: World

World cinema exposes students to different cultural identities and social contexts, fostering understanding of global perspectives and shared human experiences.

Exploration: Beyond

Film is explored as both art and philosophy. Students engage with aesthetic theory, spectatorship and ideological meaning, prompting awe and deep reflection on identity and human behaviour.

Food and Catering

Leadership: Self

At The Gryphon School, Food and Catering develops independence, self-belief and resilience through practical, real-life learning. Students plan, prepare and evaluate dishes, learning to manage time, cope with challenge and respond constructively to feedback. The evaluative process, which becomes increasingly important as students move towards GCSE coursework, helps students reflect on personal progress and take responsibility for improvement.

Integrity: Others

Food and Catering strongly promotes cooperation, fairness and shared responsibility. Students work together in practical settings, developing patience and kindness, particularly when supporting peers during cooking and cleaning tasks. In KS3, cultural dishes provide opportunities to value different traditions and lifestyles, reinforcing respect and empathy.

Fellowship: World

Students explore sustainability, food provenance and environmental responsibility throughout the curriculum. KS3 units explicitly address global food cultures, environmental impact and ethical consumption, helping students understand how food connects people and communities worldwide.

Exploration: Beyond

Students are encouraged to reflect on wider questions such as sustainability, care for creation and the ethical implications of food choices. These discussions help students recognise how small, everyday actions contribute to a fuller and more responsible way of living.

Geography

Leadership: Self

Geography at Gryphon develops confidence, leadership and resilience through enquiry, decision-making and fieldwork. Presentations and independent research help students reflect on their own role in shaping a sustainable future.

Integrity: Others

Students explore inequality, migration and development with a strong emphasis on compassion and fairness. Ethical questions about resource use and sustainability prompt reflection on responsibility toward others.

Fellowship: World

Through global case studies, live news engagement and fieldwork, students develop a deep understanding of interconnectedness between people and places.

Exploration: Beyond

Landscapes, natural processes and environmental systems inspire awe and curiosity. Big questions such as *What is my responsibility for the planet?* encourage spiritual reflection.

History

Leadership: Self

History at The Gryphon School encourages students to reflect on identity, resilience and values through the study of individuals and societies. Independent projects and extended reading promote curiosity and personal engagement, helping students see history as meaningful rather than distant.

Integrity: Others

Through studying topics such as slavery, the Holocaust, civil rights and totalitarianism, students develop compassion and moral awareness. Gryphon history lessons deliberately create space for respectful discussion of suffering, injustice and bravery, fostering empathy and ethical reflection.

Fellowship: World

A global curriculum exposes students to diverse cultures and political systems, helping them understand interconnected human stories. Visits such as Normandy and Berlin strengthen students' sense of shared history and collective responsibility.

Exploration: Beyond

A sense of awe and wonder underpins Gryphon history teaching, as students engage with powerful stories, artefacts and ideas. Big questions about power, belief and human behaviour invite deep reflection on what shapes societies and individuals.

Mathematics

Leadership: Self

Mathematics at Gryphon develops resilience, confidence and perseverance over time. Students are encouraged to embrace challenge, learn from mistakes and reflect on progress through structured feedback such as purple pen. Staff actively support students in overcoming maths anxiety, helping them develop self-belief and calm determination.

Integrity: Others

Collaborative problem-solving, paired discussion and whole-class explanation foster a supportive environment where students value effort and progress in themselves and others. Gryphon maths classrooms encourage respect, patience and mutual encouragement.

Fellowship: World

Mathematics is closely linked to real-world application at Gryphon. Topics such as finance, interpretation of data and statistics are increasingly contextualised in KS4 and KS5 to support students' understanding of economic decision-making and citizenship.

Exploration: Beyond

Students are encouraged to appreciate the structure, patterns and elegance of mathematics, including cross-curricular links to art and design. Mathematical curiosity is valued as a way of understanding order and complexity in the world.

Music

Leadership: Self

Music at Gryphon develops discipline, perseverance and confidence through rehearsal, performance, composition and reflection. Students learn the importance of self-motivation and time management as they prepare for assessments, concerts and productions. Involvement in ensembles and school performances builds courage and self-belief, particularly when students step outside their comfort zones.

Integrity: Others

Ensemble performance fosters cooperation, listening and mutual respect. Students learn to work honestly and responsibly for the success of the group, understanding that collective achievement relies on individual commitment. Reflection on authentic practice and appropriate use of technology reinforces integrity in learning.

Fellowship: World

Music provides a powerful connection to global cultures and histories. Gryphon students explore music from a variety of traditions, including African drumming, Indian classical music, reggae and blues, deepening understanding of cultural identity, migration and shared human expression.

Exploration: Beyond

Music offers moments of awe, transcendence and emotional depth. Students are encouraged to reflect on how music communicates meaning beyond words, prompting spiritual reflection on beauty, emotion and human creativity.

Nurture

Leadership: Self

Nurture provision at The Gryphon School plays a crucial role in supporting students to develop self-awareness, emotional regulation and inner resilience. Through consistent routines, calm environments and carefully scaffolded strategies, students are supported to understand their own emotions, responses and behaviours. One-to-one interventions, small group work and programmes such as ELSA help students develop confidence, self-control and the ability to reflect on their actions. By encouraging students to step gently outside their comfort zones and learn from mistakes, nurture provision strengthens inner leadership and helps students build the resilience needed to engage fully with school life and learning.

Integrity: Others

Developing empathy, respect and compassion is central to nurture at Gryphon. Students learn to recognise and respond to the needs of others through structured social skills groups, restorative conversations and guided reflection. Practical examples, such as care for living things and shared responsibilities within nurture spaces, help students understand respect and dignity in tangible ways. The use of restorative justice approaches supports students in taking responsibility for their actions, repairing relationships and understanding the impact of their behaviour on others, reinforcing honesty, kindness and accountability.

Fellowship: World

Nurture at Gryphon helps students develop a sense of belonging and connection to the wider community. Transition support, particularly for students moving from KS2 to KS3, helps new students recognise their place within the school and appreciate diversity. Opportunities such as gateway community projects, links with nurseries, food banks and alternative provision expose students to experiences beyond the classroom and encourage care for others. Trips, adventurous activities and enrichment experiences further support students in building confidence and developing positive relationships with the world around them.

Exploration: Beyond

Reflection is at the heart of nurture provision. Spaces such as the Haven provide safe environments where students can pause, reflect and explore feelings, worries and big questions arising from personal circumstances or life experiences. Counselling, ELSA sessions and supported reflection times allow students to think deeply about what matters to them, how they cope with challenge and how they can move forward positively. Awe and wonder are nurtured through celebrating resilience, progress and achievement in all forms, helping students recognise their own growth and the value of empathy, hope and perseverance as part of living life fully.

Photography

Leadership: Self

Photography at Gryphon encourages students to express identity, emotion and viewpoint through their work. Students reflect on why they create images, not simply how, helping them understand their own perspectives and creative intent.

Integrity: Others

Students demonstrate responsibility through safe and respectful handling of equipment and through peer critique that values honesty and kindness. Exhibiting photographs around the school builds confidence while reinforcing respect for audience and subject.

Fellowship: World

Photography enables students to observe the world more carefully and appreciate different viewpoints. The act of framing images encourages reflection on how individuals experience and represent the world around them.

Exploration: Beyond

Meaning, metaphor and symbolism are integral to Gryphon photography. Students frequently experience awe and wonder when discovering unexpected beauty, helping them appreciate both the detail of the small world and the scale of the wider one.

RE

Leadership: Self

Social Science at Gryphon supports students in reflecting on personal identity, belief and values. In KS3 philosophy units, students explore questions about purpose, existence and meaning, developing self-awareness and confidence in discussion.

Integrity: Others

Respect for difference is explicitly taught through engagement with diverse religious and ethical viewpoints. Students learn to listen carefully, challenge ideas thoughtfully and show compassion when engaging with beliefs different from their own.

Fellowship: World

By studying religious traditions and ethical frameworks from around the world, students develop understanding of how communities live, celebrate and find meaning.

Exploration: Beyond

Big questions sit at the heart of the subject. Gryphon students are encouraged to engage with uncertainty, mystery and belief as part of spiritual growth, recognising that not all questions have simple answers.

For further detail about spirituality in RE please see our RE Curriculum Overview

Science

Leadership: Self

Science at The Gryphon School plays a central role in developing students as confident, resilient and reflective learners. Through practical investigation, enquiry and structured reflection, students learn to question evidence, embrace challenge and persist when outcomes are unexpected. From KS3 onwards, students are taught that uncertainty and error are fundamental to scientific progress, helping them develop resilience and intellectual courage. Opportunities such as extended investigations, Let's Think lessons, enrichment projects and competitions (including Olympiads and symposiums) support students in recognising their own capacity to think deeply and independently, empowering them to engage fully with learning and with life.

Integrity: Others

Integrity is developed through an emphasis on responsible scientific practice, honesty in evaluation and consideration of ethical implications. At The Gryphon School, students explore ethical questions such as medical consent, genetic technology, stem cell research, artificial intelligence, energy use and environmental responsibility. Practical work encourages safe, respectful collaboration, where students must listen to others, share resources fairly and recognise the value of collective discovery. These experiences support students in understanding that scientific knowledge carries moral responsibility and that integrity matters both in learning and in life.

Fellowship: World

Science at Gryphon fosters a strong sense of fellowship with the world by helping students understand their shared responsibility for the planet and one another. Topics such as climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystems, pandemics and global health develop awareness of global interconnection and stewardship. Students explore how scientific decisions impact communities worldwide and how cooperation is essential to addressing global challenges. Collaborative learning in lessons mirrors this sense of shared endeavour, reinforcing that knowledge is something built together rather than in isolation.

Exploration: Beyond

Awe and wonder are at the heart of science at The Gryphon School. From the study of cells and microscopic life to the vastness of space and the origins of the universe, students are consistently encouraged to ask big questions about existence, creation and humanity's place within the natural world. The curriculum intentionally creates moments of curiosity and amazement, inviting students to reflect beyond what can be measured, and to recognise that science can inspire both understanding and humility as part of living life in all its fullness.

Social Sciences (KS5 – Psychology, Sociology, Criminology)

Leadership: Self

At KS5, Social Sciences build independence, confidence and leadership. Opportunities for peer teaching, group leadership and extended research help students develop self-direction and reflective habits necessary for adult life.

Integrity: Others

Students critically examine morality, justice, bias and ethics in research and society. They are encouraged to reflect on fairness, responsibility and how knowledge should be used, fostering strong moral awareness.

Fellowship: World

Topics such as mental health, crime, social inequality and social change help students understand how individuals and systems interact within society, reinforcing empathy and social responsibility.

Exploration: Beyond

Enduring questions such as nature versus nurture push students to think deeply about what shapes human behaviour and identity, encouraging thoughtful engagement beyond surface explanations.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Leadership: Self

MFL at Gryphon builds confidence, resilience and courage as students speak, listen and present in another language. Making mistakes is normalised, helping students develop self-belief and perseverance as communicators.

Integrity: Others

Learning about other cultures encourages empathy and respect. Students explicitly address stereotypes and consider different perspectives, learning to approach cultural difference with humility and openness.

Fellowship: World

Languages connect students directly with global communities. Gryphon students explore festivals, daily life, politics and social issues in French- and Spanish-speaking countries, making the wider world feel tangible and relevant.

Exploration: Beyond

Language learning inspires curiosity and exploration. Students reflect on how language shapes identity and understanding, recognising that communication builds connection and enriches life.