



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Policy for Spiritual and Moral Development

Autumn 2023

Signed Chair of Governors : *Mrs M Hughes*

23rd January 2024

Policy for Spiritual Development

"Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth. It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, valuing a non-material dimension to life and intimations of an enduring reality".

Spiritual development is an important element of a child's education. It underlies motivation, imagination, curiosity and social development. It is personal and unique to each individual. It is the search for meaning, a purpose in life and for values by which to live.

Implementation

- In St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we provide opportunities for spiritual development at a level appropriate to the children's age and ability.
- All areas of the curriculum may contribute to the child's spiritual development
- The Religious Education programme (Come and See) promotes and develops the children's spiritual development
- Spiritual development is fostered in all aspects of school life.

Aims

- To enable the children to experience a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- To develop a sense of quality of silence and awareness
- To develop a sense of constant change
- To develop a sense of pattern and order
- To develop a sense of self worth, uniqueness, identity, gifts and talents
- To develop a sense of worth of others - relationships
- To develop a sense of achievement
- To develop a sense of limitation, frustration, loss
- To develop a sense of the Natural World; dark, light, bread/food, trees, sky, wind, water, earth
- To develop a sense of capacity for choice and decision: freedom

Objectives

- That children develop knowledge of the world they live in and of various cultures and faiths
- To develop links to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the world,

through personal and charitable links

- That children develop an understanding of explanations of life experiences and the universe through various myths and stories and various interpretations
- That children understand and demonstrate beliefs which are held personally
- That children demonstrate behaviour and attitudes which derive from such knowledge and understanding from personal communications and that they show awareness of the relationship between beliefs and actions
- That children develop a personal response to questions about the purpose of life, and to take experiences of: for example "beauty and love" or "pain and suffering".

Policy for Moral Development

"Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong".

Our Relationships Policy reflects the importance of moral education, the policy helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong. The word 'moral' is concerned with fundamental judgements about how we should behave or act and our reasons for such behaviour. It is of the greatest importance that children develop a clear set of rules of conduct, which draw on the basic moral values and which can be applied to everyday situations. These values of forgiveness, freedom, tolerance, respect and relationships are to be lived out in the daily life of the school by the whole school community.

Aims

- To foster self esteem, self-discipline, tolerance and a sense of responsibility towards others
- To ensure that the children's experiences of relationships within the school have formative and significant influences on their understanding of relationships

Objectives

- To provide knowledge of the language and ideas of morality
- To encourage children's speaking and listening skills to the best of their ability
- To encourage them to put their own ideas into words and to listen with tolerance and respect to other people's views and beliefs so that we can avoid prejudice and misunderstanding

- To develop children's personal values in relation to themselves and others and with regard to local, national and world issues
- To encourage and help children to act and behave in accordance with such values, including the skills of making moral decisions and forming moral judgements

Implementation

- Through our Mission Statement - we strive to build good relationships in our school community reflecting the values and attitudes to 'INSPIRE' our children, work in partnership with parents, parish and make a positive contribution at the heart of our local community thus enabling all to be the best citizens they can be
- The values within our school determine the behaviour throughout the school and are explained in our Relationship and Behaviour Policies (they are upheld by all staff and children with the support and encouragement of parents/carers)
- It is developed and permeates all areas of the curriculum, where children can challenge others' beliefs whilst deepening their own
- Through the Religious Education programme the children have many opportunities to discover, develop and discuss their own moral development and the moral teaching of the Church
- Through daily collective worship the children have time for quiet reflection on their own thoughts and actions, and some guidelines in promoting a positive sense of morality in relation to themselves and others
- The children have opportunity to discuss matters of personal concern with their own teacher or other members of staff based on trust and openness
- Before the children start in our Reception, our parents/carers have the opportunity to discuss personal matters with the teacher/teaching assistant during an initial parent meeting.

Pupils should be given opportunities to:

- Compare values and beliefs held by themselves and others.
- Examine evidence, opinions and form conclusions.
- Discuss differences and resolve conflicts.
- Discuss and consider solutions to personal, social and moral dilemmas.
- Appreciate that the distinction between right and wrong is not always straightforward.