



Policy for Spiritual Development

"Living the Gospel in the spirit of love and respect".

Coordinator	Mrs C Atkinson
Groups involved in discussion	Governing Body Headteacher Senior Leadership All Staff Children Parents
Link to school improvement plan	Section 8 – further develop the Catholic Life of the school to ensure the school remains good to outstanding.

What is Spiritual Development?

Spiritual Development is to do with the search for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which to live. It is concerned with how an individual acquires personal beliefs and values, whether life has purpose, and is the basis for personal and social behaviour questions which are at the heart and root of existence.

At St. Wilfrid's, spiritual development helps members of the School Community to develop a sense of the presence of God in their lives and helps them to acquire insights into their personal existence which are of an enduring worth. Through the curriculum, through Collective Worship and through its ethos, the school helps to form pupils' response to life and to various forms of experience.

AIMS of this Policy

The development of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us. For many pupils, these will have a significant religious belief

- A developing understanding of feelings and emotions which causes us to reflect and to learn
- For all pupils, a developing recognition that their insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire or guide them in life.
- To provide opportunities for members of the School Community to develop range, depth and quality in their prayer life according to their age and experience.
- For all members of the School Community to develop a closeness with Jesus in all aspects of their lives through a greater knowledge and understanding of His life and teachings.
- To develop awareness of God's wonders in a sensitive way.
- To develop opportunities for reflection both of attitudes and values and also responding to the presence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- To develop children's spiritual awareness through the experience of Art, Music, Drama and Dance.

- To give children opportunities to learn and respect the spirituality of other faiths.

How does the school contribute to Spiritual Development?

At St. Wilfrid's School, spiritual education is provided through all aspects of the curriculum; through the religious programme "Come and See", through Collective Worship and Liturgies and through the Christian ethos of the school.

A set of values, principles and beliefs, which may or may not be religious, which inform their perspective on life and their patterns of behaviour;

- An awareness and understanding of their own and others' beliefs
- A respect for themselves and for others
- A sense of empathy with others, concern and compassion
- An increasing ability to reflect and learn from this reflection
- An ability to show courage in defence of their aims, values, principles and beliefs
- A readiness to challenge all that would constrain the human spirit, for example, poverty of aspiration, lack of self-confidence and belief, moral neutrality or indifference, force, fanaticism, aggression, greed, injustice, narrowness of vision, self-interest, sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination;
- An appreciation of the intangible – for example, beauty, truth, love, goodness, order, as well as for mystery, paradox and ambiguity
- A respect for insight as well as knowledge and reason
- An expressive and/or creative impulse
- An ability to think in terms of the 'whole' – example, concepts such as harmony, interdependence, scale, perspective
- An understanding of feelings and emotions and their likely impact.

St. Wilfrid's School provides opportunities for pupils to:

At St. Wilfrid's we encourage Spiritual development by –

- Giving pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives
- Where pupils already have religious beliefs, supporting and developing these beliefs in ways which are personal and relevant to them
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and learn from reflection
- Giving pupils the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they affect people and how an understanding of them can be helpful
- Developing a climate or ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected
- Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals
- Learn how to pray and experience different forms of prayer
- Experience moments to be still, reflect and meditate
- Take on responsibilities in Collective Worship, Assemblies and other liturgies
- Take part in Celebrations
- Become aware of how people of other faiths respond to the spiritual dimension in life
- Talk about their feelings and the consequences of their actions
- Take part in role play
- Experience a Spiritual Retreat
- Promoting teaching styles which:
 - value pupils' questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns
 - enable pupils to make connections between aspects of their learning
 - encourage pupils to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference – for example, asking 'why', 'how' and 'where' as well as 'what' monitoring in simple, pragmatic ways, the success of what is provided.

St. Wilfrid's Governors

Our governors determine, support, monitor and review the school's approach to teaching and learning. In particular they:

- Support the use of appropriate teaching strategies by allocating resources effectively
- Ensure that the school buildings and premises are used optimally to support teaching and learning
- Check teaching methods in the light of health and safety regulations
- Seek to ensure that our staff development and our performance management both promote good quality teaching
- Monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning approaches through the school's self-review processes, which include reports from subject leaders and the termly headteacher's report to governors.

St. Wilfrid's Parents

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. Every effort is made to inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- Holding parents' evenings to explain pupil progress.
- Sending information to parents, at the start of each term, which outlines the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school.
- Sending parents regular reports in which we explain the progress made by each child and indicate how the child can improve further.
- Explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework, and suggesting, for example, regular shared reading with very young children, and support for older children with their projects and investigative work.
- We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies.
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We would therefore like parents to:

- Ensure that their child has the best attendance record possible.
- Ensure that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform and PE kit.
- Do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school.
- Inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour.
- Promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general.

We are aware of the need to monitor the school's Religious Education policy, and to review it regularly, so that we can take account of new initiatives and research, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school. We will therefore review this policy every two years, or earlier if necessary.

This policy was last updated on	March 2023
Discussed and agrees with Governors	April 2023
Formal Review of Policy	April 2025

Signed: *Mrs O'Brien* Headteacher

Date: March 2023



Living the Gospel in the Spirit of Love and Respect