



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Aims for promoting SMSC

It is the aim of the school to provide a secure and stimulating environment where the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of each child is met,

Through our Catholic beliefs, we aim to nurture within children a love of God and an awareness of God's love for each one of us,

With the growing awareness of love for all people, we will help children towards true respect for the beliefs and cultures of others. We aim to provide children with the experience of caring relationships within the school community which will have a positive influence on their understanding of relationships.

The distinctive nature and religious character of our school is not something that can be restricted to the R.E. lesson but presents itself in all aspects of our school life especially in the way we aim to assist the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

At St. Ignatius' we believe that education is a means of proclaiming and revealing the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to our children so that they may develop fully as human beings and discover purpose and meaning in their lives, now and in the future.

We believe that good relationships which are based on mutual respect and love are the key to an harmonious community where all can work together towards the common good. We further believe that what is learned in our school will enable our children to understand the wider community and their Christian role in society.

Cultural development in St. Ignatius' is concerned with the cultures and traditions represented in our school, its immediate environment, our country and the world. As Catholics, we value the wide cultural diversity in the worldwide expression of our beliefs within our own faith worldwide. We believe that it is our duty to lead our children, through the development of respect and understanding, to learn to live harmoniously with a wider variety of people from different national, cultural, racial and religious backgrounds

At St. Ignatius' we aim to:

- To help our children to recognise and appreciate the spiritual, religious, social and moral dimensions of life.
- To foster in our children a reverence for God and the things which are God's, and a sense of love and respect for one another.
- To put Christ firmly in the centre of all that takes place in our school.
- To lead our children to a deeper knowledge and understanding of Christian and other religious traditions.
- To allow our children the opportunity and time to ask questions and to search. To support their need to find out for themselves answers to fundamental questions about human existence
- To teach our children to have respect for both religious and moral values, other races, religions and ways of life.

- To create in every classroom a community where children know they are loved and respected and where they can feel confident and secure. Love and security are basic human/ religious needs and our concept of God springs from the loving, consistent, secure experiences gained in formative years from both parents and teachers.
- Provide a high quality of pastoral care;
- Provide the opportunity for every child to achieve their true potential through the experiences which they receive and the knowledge they acquire;
- Enable children to develop an understanding and respect for different beliefs and cultures.

To achieve these aims we will provide in our implicit and explicit curriculum opportunities for children to:

- Learn that we, as Catholics, believe that life is a spiritual journey towards God in which we develop our relationship with Him through prayer and worship;
- Explore and question their own experiences and interpretations of them in a secure and loving environment;
- Respond to and express their reactions to their own inner experience and that of others in a variety of forms;
- Have time for quiet reflection, individually or as a member of a group;
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery in the natural world and feel a sense of God in the order and beauty of His Creation;
- Develop an appreciation that although we as Catholics believe that we are made in the image and likeness of God different traditions may celebrate the worth of being human in different ways.
- Explore and express their innermost thoughts, creativity and imagination and show an awareness and valuing of the feelings and beliefs of others;
- Come into contact with the beliefs and practices of others through story and festival and by meeting visitors from other faiths;
- Develop the beliefs and values of the home and family through the Gospel values and attitudes which we as a school community uphold and foster;
- Establish positive school relationships based on tolerance, acceptance, appreciation and respect;
- Understand that injustice, aggression or rejection can hurt others;
- Think about and reflect on their own lives and explore the lives of people who exemplify qualities which are universally valued.

Implementation and Organisation

In order to promote the Spiritual, moral, Social and cultural Development of our children we will;

- Ensure that the school and classroom environment is stimulating and well ordered to promote positive learning and encourage personal development and responsibility;
- Use the teachings and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Faith to promote positive relationships with and respect for all individuals and groups;
- Promote positive values, qualities and attitudes and discourage negative ones through the implementation of our school Behaviour Policy;
- foster social skills through teamwork and co-operative projects and encourage development of social responsibility by support for charitable ventures.

British Values

In June 2014, the then secretary of state for education, Michael Gove, announced that schools would be required to promote British values from September 2014. The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 for the new social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) standard came into force on 29 September 2014. The regulations state that to meet the standard for the SMSC development of pupils, independent schools/academies and free schools must actively promote what the Government defines as 'fundamental British values': democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

The Department for Education state that there is a need "to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

'British values' that have their roots in the Christian values.

The teachings and ideals of Christ, given to us through His Word and His Body, walk hand in hand with these values bringing: Love and Solidarity, Truth and Justice, Purity and Holiness, Dignity and Compassion and Tolerance and Peace. We teach the importance of 'British Values' by going much deeper into the meaning of what it means to live a good life, within a framework of Catholic Christian Values.

Democracy

Democracy is embedded at the school. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. Pupils also have the opportunity to air their opinions and ideas through our School Council. The elections of the School Council are based solely on pupil votes (following presentations), reflecting our British electoral system and demonstrating democracy in action.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws whether they are those that govern the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Our school has expectations which are deeply embedded in our work. Each class discusses and displays the school rules which are clearly understood by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every pupil is able to learn in a safe and ordered environment. Our pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Details about school rewards and sanctions, choice and consequences are detailed in our behaviour policy.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for our pupils to

make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment, an empowering education and a curriculum based upon clear values of the Catholic Faith. Our pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely; examples of this can be clearly seen in our e-safety and PSHE lessons.

Mutual Respect:

Respect is one of our core values and key to our school rules. The pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have and to everything, however big or small. Respect underpins our work every day both in and out of the classroom.

Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths And Beliefs

Our core value of respect ensures tolerance of those who have different faiths and beliefs. We enhance pupils' understanding of different faiths and beliefs through religious education studies following advice from the Lancaster Diocese and is reinforced by supplementary work through CAFOD. Through our PSHE work, visits to places of worship, welcoming visitors of other faiths, respecting the different faiths and beliefs of our own members of staff and enjoying in-depth of study during themed weeks our pupils understanding is enhanced further and they gain an enhanced understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society.

This policy was agreed and adopted by the Governors of St Ignatius' Catholic Primary School on 3rd July 2017

Reviewed September 2021
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