

Policy for Spiritual Development and Moral Development

Leader/Co-ordinator	Mrs P Atherton
Groups involved in discussion	Headteacher RE Co-ordinator All Staff Governing Body

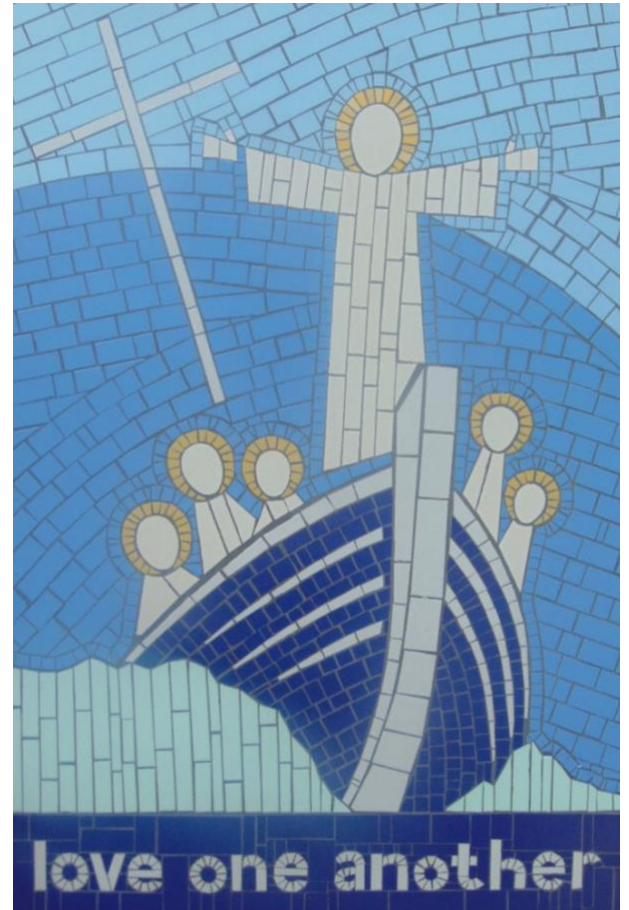
'Love one another as I have loved you'
John 13:34

Spiritual development is concerned with how an individual acquires personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has purpose and the basis for personal and social behavior questions which are 'at the heart and root of existence'.

Moral development helps to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behavior in relation to what is right and wrong. It involves the distinction between right and wrong, good and evil and therefore is about growing an awareness of and a positive response to the demands of living as an individual with others in the community.

The Gospel values are lived out in the daily life of the school in many ways including:

- Forgiveness
- Freedom
- Tolerance
- Respect
- Relationships



Aims

At St Oswald's School we aim to provide a secure and caring community in which the gospel spirit of freedom, justice, honesty, respect, tolerance and compassion permeates all aspects of our schools' life and work.

We are committed to providing a caring and supportive environment where all are treated with courtesy, consideration and respect and all are valued.

At St Oswald's School we provide opportunities for the children

- To understand that each person is made in the image of God and has special gifts and qualities.
- To begin to appreciate God's gifts in themselves and others.
- To develop a sense of reverence and awe in the presence of God and his creation.
- To begin to appreciate important Christian values as shown in the life of Jesus.
- To know that Jesus came to help people to change.
- To begin to understand how people can strengthen or damage their relationships with one another and with the world.
- To develop a sense of the presence of God in their lives and respond to his presence.
- To hear of how people of other faiths respond to the spiritual dimension of their lives.
- To decide what they hold as right and wrong, why they do so and how they should act.
- To take the opportunity to pray and reflect upon various aspects of life.
- To accommodate difference and to respect the integrity of individuals.

Pupil's spiritual and moral development is encouraged and guided in all areas of the curriculum. Opportunities are provided in all curricular areas for time to think, reflect and develop socially, imaginatively and emotionally. Cross curricular links in RE ensure a variety of teaching methods are used to deliver these skills e.g. speaking and listening activities, hot seating, drama and role play, strong literacy links provide opportunities for poetry and stories which are written and read. Many are used in our RE displays of children's work.

In RE lessons, collective worship and assembly time; pupils are encouraged and supported in building their relationships with God. All pupils are encouraged to speak to God in their own ways.

We are committed to giving pupils opportunities across all curricular areas to explore and develop moral concepts and values – for examples, the development of truth, justice, a sense of right and wrong, equality of opportunity and personal rights and responsibilities.

Through our school Code of Conduct, SEAL and PSHE/C programmes and relationships with the wider school and global communities pupils are encouraged to foster a respect for themselves others and their environment. They are encouraged to reflect and consider the impact of their actions on the wider global communities through participation in activities connected with such organisations as Cafod, Mission Together, The Samaritans Purse, Nugent Care Society, Derian House, and the Meningitis Trust.



They are encouraged to develop a strong sense of citizenship and to care for those less fortunate than themselves.

ALL pupils are encouraged to be proud of themselves and their school.

Monitoring and Review

We are aware of the need to monitor the school's Spiritual and Moral Development 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 year, or earlier if necessary. This policy was last updated in September 2023.

DISCUSSED AND AGREED BY RELEVANT STAFF	Sept 2016
DISCUSSED AND AGREED BY GOVERNING BODY	Sept 2016
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	Ongoing
REVIEW DATE(S)	Reviewed 03.10.18 Reviewed 16.09.19 Reviewed 21.09.20 Reviewed 14.09.21 Reviewed 12.09.22 Reviewed 15.09.23 Due to be reviewed September 2024