

# St Peter's R.C. Primary School

## Spiritual and Moral Development Policy



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| Policy                    | Spiritual and Moral Development Policy |
| Date                      | September 2020                         |
| Date of review            | September 2022                         |
| Signed Chair of Governors | <i>Eugene McCarthy</i>                 |
| Signed Headteacher        | <i>Clare Scott</i>                     |

*We, the family of St Peter's, united in faith by God strive to learn and grow together to be the best we possibly can every day.*

## **Introduction:**

We aim to develop an ethos in our school whereby the spiritual and moral needs of all within the school community are supported. This will be expressed through our response to the gospel values.

The school believes that the planned promotion of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our children is fundamental to the teachings of the school.

The Christian belief that human beings are created in the image of God, and that each shares in God's purpose to bring life and respect one another, underpins the work and nature of the school, and is endorsed in our mission statement.

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At St Peter's Catholic Primary School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness and high standards of personal behaviour. We also aim to nurture children in gaining a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

## **General aims:**

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment, and an appreciation of the many cultures that enrich our society
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility

### **Spiritual development objectives:**

Spirituality is about searching for God in events of human life. It is the very essence of what it means to be human. It is concerned with:

- How an individual acquires personal beliefs
- Questions about religion
- Whether life has a purpose
- Questions about personal and social behaviour

### **Spiritual development assists children in considering:**

- Reflection as a means of self-evaluation
- The attribution of meaning to experience
- The value of a non-material dimension to life

### **As a school, we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:**

- Sustain their self-esteem and their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships with their peers and adults both at school and home
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life

### **Moral Development objectives:**

The Educational mission of the Church brings to life Christ's new commandment "... that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34)

At the heart of the Church's and the school's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God. We are called to reflect God's love for us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have been given the freedom to respond to His love, or reflect Him. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development – to our becoming fully human.

### **Moral education helps pupils to acquire:**

- Knowledge
- Understanding
- Intentions
- Attitudes
- Behaviour

in relation to what is right or wrong

**As a school, we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:**

- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- Recognise the challenge of Jesus' teaching
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
- Distinguish between right and wrong
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgements

**A child who has developed spiritually and morally should:**

- Hold a strong set of values, principles and beliefs
- Show an awareness and understanding of their own and others' beliefs
- Foster and maintain high levels of respect for themselves and for others
- Establish a good sense of empathy, concern and compassion
- Have the skill to reflect upon the actions of themselves and others
- Be able to show courage in defence of their values, principles and belief.
- Show a readiness to challenge all that would constrain the human spirit e.g. poverty
- Have the ability to think in term of the 'whole' e.g. harmony

**Teaching and Organisation**

Spiritual and moral development will take place across all curriculum areas. Within activities, pupils will be encourage to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of that they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

**Class discussion and circle time will give pupils opportunities to:**

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events, eg bullying, death etc
- Share thoughts and feeling with other people
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider others needs and behaviour
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for other
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally – eg empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc (for comprehensive list see attached sheet)

**Many curriculum areas will also provide opportunities to:**

- Listen and talk to each other
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are different in any way
- Agree and disagree
- Take turns and share equipment
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively
- Link with the wider community
- Encourage and welcome visitors into school to enhance the pupils understanding of the wider community
- Link with the Church and other parties within the Diocese
- Develop a strong home-school link, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it

**Role of the Co-ordinator**

**Provision is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:**

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings
- Audit of policies and Schemes of Work
- Sharing of classroom work and practice
- Audit of policy and practice
- Collation of pupils' work
- Regular inclusion on SDP/SIP

**Conclusion**

High standards in the area of social and moral development will be sought and maintained by making explicit the school's values expressed in the Mission Statement, and by establishing the clear principles and values evident in the Biblical concept of loving each other as Jesus loved us.