

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Moral Development Policy

Living and learning together - Shining in our Faith

Aims and Purpose

We aim to provide every individual child with the opportunity to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil both in school and throughout the wider social context.

The purpose of this policy is to highlight the opportunities provided for moral development within and around the curriculum.

Objectives

We will meet this aim;

- By extending pupils' knowledge and understanding of the range of accepted values in society.
- Developing pupils' skills and attitudes, such as decision-making, self-control, consideration of others, having the confidence to act in accordance with one's principles and thinking through the consequences of actions.
- Promoting, at an appropriate level, pupils' understanding of basic moral philosophy and the skills of analysis, debate, judgement and application to contemporary issues.
- Promoting 'British Values' as defined by the DfE.

Characteristics of Moral Development

“Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, Intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right or wrong”.

Pupils who are becoming morally aware are likely to be developing some of the following characteristics:

- An ability to distinguish right from wrong, based on knowledge of the moral codes of their own and other cultures.
- A confidence to act consistently in accordance with their own principles.
- An ability to think through consequences of their own and others' actions.
- A willingness to express their views on ethical issues and personal values.
- An ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements on moral dilemmas.
- A commitment to personal values in areas which are considered right by some and wrong by others.
- A considerate style of life.
- A respect for others' needs, interests and feelings, as well as their own.
- A desire to explore their own and others' views.
- An understanding of the need to review and re-assess their values, codes and principles in the light of experience.

Opportunities for Moral Development

Opportunities for moral development are in every aspect of school life. The following opportunities for moral development are provided at St. Mary's Catholic Primary:

- Rewarding good behaviour through the school reward system – house points, table points, special certificates, progress awards and sporting awards. All of which are shared with parents/carers, particularly through celebration assemblies.
- Through PSHE, RE and circle time we provide the opportunities for children to discuss the following:
 - fairness
 - integrity
 - respect for others
 - resolution of conflict
 - keeping promises
- Through the Come and See programme the children learn about other faiths. This provides them with the opportunity to recognise and respect the codes and morals of different cultures represented in the school and wider community.
- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions through the ‘I Care’ code of conduct.
- Encouraging the pupils to undertake roles which will promote their moral development e.g. playground buddies, corridor monitors, dinner monitors etc.
- Through curriculum areas such as literature, humanities, sciences and the arts, we highlight models of moral virtue.
- Through collective worship we provide children with the opportunity to explore what is right out of love for others, respect for the world and regard for the world in which they live. Through reflection we encourage children to listen to their conscience and their inner sense.

Moral Context and Gospel Values

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). Through the teaching of Jesus we are provided with a set of gospel values. These are lived out in the daily life of the school in the following ways:

- forgiveness
- freedom
- tolerance
- respect
- relationships

The Role of the Teacher in Moral Development

As teachers, our role is to develop the ‘whole person’. We, as teachers believe that we have a vital role in the moral development of our children through our questioning techniques, the opportunities we provide for moral development and the environment.

The Environment we Create

The environment we create consist of the physical environment and the relationships within school.

We hope to create a warm and welcoming environment that reflects our mission to work together as a family. To create this caring and loving environment we encourage a sense of respect amongst all members of the

school community. The staff lead by example and the children are encouraged to be caring and sensitive to the needs of others and to take responsibility for their actions. We aim to create an open and safe learning environment in which pupils can express their views and practice moral decision-making.

The school's values and expected standards of moral conduct are reinforced through the 'I Care' code of conduct displayed around the school, posters and classroom displays.

Provision for Special Needs Children

We always aim to provide the same opportunities for children regardless of age or ability. This is achieved through differentiation and appropriate activities. We believe it is very important for children with special needs to feel fully valued as part of our school family. It is our mission for every child to achieve individual excellence in a supportive, caring Catholic environment.

Policy reviewed - Feb. 2018

Reviewed by Governors Spring 2018