

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Spiritual Development Policy

Living and learning together - Shining in our Faith

Aims and Purpose

In preparing our children for their journey through life, we aim to promote and develop every child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination.

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

Religious Education and worship have a central place in the whole of our curriculum. We aim to provide activities which will provide all children with the means of exploring their feelings.

Objectives

We will meet this aim;

- By encouraging children to reflect upon their personal existence through discussion and personal reflection.
- By providing daily opportunities for prayer and reflection on the presence of God.
- By providing a variety of stimuli to aid reflection and thoughts.
- By using a variety of traditional and familiar prayers and hymns.
- By using every opportunity to develop a sense of awe and wonder in the world.
- By providing weekly opportunities for a celebration of success and thanks through weekly assemblies.

Opportunities for Spiritual Development

Opportunities for spiritual development are in every aspect of school life. Within our delivery of the National Curriculum, pupils are encouraged to:

- Reflect on values, experiences and attitudes of others
e.g. in discussion of history/geography/environmental issues, through stories in English, during P.S. H. E – particularly circle time activities and most importantly through Religious Education.
- Understand and reflect on the physical world of God's creation
e.g. through RE, Art, Science, Geography, PE, Maths, DT as well as Assemblies and Collective Worship.
- To explore their own feelings and express them within their work.
e.g. through poetry, musical composition, creative arts, dance, RE and prayers.
- To recognise God's presence in their work and in their lives
e.g. give thanks to God for their gifts and talents, celebrate and appreciate one another's abilities and achievements.

The Role of the Teacher in Spiritual Development

As teachers our role is to develop the 'whole person'. We, as teachers, believe that we have a vital role in the spiritual development of our children through our questioning techniques, the times we offer for reflection, the environment and our planning.

Questioning Techniques

We aim to answer questions about the world truthfully and appropriately, to lead children in the direction of open-ended enquiry, to lead them to a sense of awe and wonder and in some cases to allow them to draw their own conclusions.

Times for Reflection

Reflection is an important part of the daily life in our school. Children are invited to reflect during whole-school and class collective worship, in RE lessons and during circle time. We also promote reflection throughout the day through reflection areas/zones.

The Environment we Create

The environment we create consists 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.

Within the physical environment, we aim to provide a stimulating environment which values children's contributions and work. Each classroom has a focus area for worship and reflection and an RE display showing examples of the work covered in the current topic.

Liturgy and Worship to promote Spiritual Development

“The opportunities provided by a Catholic school for pupils to deepen their personal relationship with Christ in personal prayer, Liturgy and the celebration of the Sacraments brings the spiritual life of the school to its most explicit expression”.

Spiritual and Moral Development Across
The Curriculum. C. E. S. 1995

Prayer is central to the life of our school and we offer children many varied opportunities:

Liturgy

Children have the opportunity to participate in Masses in school and Family Masses and Monday morning whole school Assembly and Collective Worship.

Celebration of the Sacraments

Children are prepared for the Sacraments in partnership with the home, school and Parish. These are celebrated with the whole school and Parish community.

Personal Prayer and Reflection

Children are encouraged to develop their own personal prayers as well as the more traditional prayers of the Church. Reflective and imaginative prayers are used within whole school and class prayer times. Within our reflections, we aim to direct children to a deeper understanding of themselves and how God works in their lives.

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. It is our mission for every child to achieve individual excellence in a supportive, caring Catholic environment.

Policy reviewed by Co-Ordinator Feb 2018

Reviewed by Governors Spring term 2018