

St John's Catholic Junior School



Policy for Spiritual and Moral Development

Mission Statement:

"Love one another as I have loved you"

What is Spiritual development?

Spiritual development involves the development of beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and inspire our lives. For many people these will have a largely significant religious basis but we should also be aware that for others there will be little or no religious foundation to their spiritual development.

Therefore it is important to realise that opportunities for spiritual development are not just restricted to timetabled Religious Education lessons. Spiritual development also provides many opportunities for work across the curriculum as well as through Collective Worship. Primarily, the climate and ethos of the school impact heavily on the opportunities to develop individual pupil's beliefs.

Aims of spiritual development

Through spiritual education at St John's, we aim to:

- ❖ Develop an understanding of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and inspire our lives.
- ❖ As a Catholic school, promote the Christian values of friendship, compassion and forgiveness.
- ❖ To offer a wealth of experiences that enables pupils to develop their understanding.

- ❖ Plan for and develop opportunities for children to demonstrate their developing insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values.
- ❖ Create a welcoming, opening and honest atmosphere permeated by the ethos and mission statement of the school.

Spiritual development at St John's Junior

Through our provision we aim to enhance individual children's spiritual development through:

- ❖ The delivery of the 'The Way The Truth and The Life'.
- ❖ The celebration of seasons and feasts of the Christian calendar, as well as those of other faiths and cultures.
- ❖ The climate, ethos and mission statement of the school.
- ❖ Expectations of pupil behaviour through a positive, reflective behaviour management system.
- ❖ Use of JIGSAW PSHE curriculum resource to help children understand how their feelings and emotions impact upon others.
- ❖ Creating and maintaining an environment of trust, care and compassion.
- ❖ Providing opportunities for children to reflect on their learning and on all aspects of school life through use of 'Learning Powers'.
- ❖ Celebrating the uniqueness of each child and planning for opportunities in learning that will allow all children to achieve their full potential.
- ❖ Reinforcing school's values by providing positive images and role models.

What is moral development?

Moral development is how children apply their own personal beliefs in a social context. It is the development of a clear distinction between right and wrong; good and evil. *Moral development is very individual and personal and we are mindful of not simply transmitting our values, onto the children in our care.*

Aims of moral development

Through moral education at St John's we aim to:

- ❖ Develop an understanding of moral behaviour in line with our Mission Statement.
- ❖ Develop and nurture an environment and atmosphere of forgiveness, freedom, tolerance and mutual respect.
- ❖ Extend pupils' knowledge and understanding of accepted values in society.
- ❖ Promote the British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, including tolerance of other faiths.
- ❖ Develop pupils' skills and attitudes, such as decision making, self-control and consideration for others.
- ❖ Give children the confidence to act in accordance with their own principles and thinking through the consequences of their actions.

Moral development at St John's

Through our provision we aim to enhance individual children's moral development through:

- ❖ Promoting good behaviour choices through the positive behaviour policy. It provides a clear moral code that is promoted consistently throughout the school.
- ❖ Understanding and living out our school Mission Statement.
- ❖ Promoting measures which prevent discrimination on any level.
- ❖ Providing opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values.
- ❖ Promoting the British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, including tolerance of other faiths.
- ❖ Providing an open and safe learning environment where children can express their views and practise moral decision making.
- ❖ Providing positive role models of relationships, interactions and principles.

- ❖ Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions.

Evidence of Spiritual and Moral development in our school community

By using and referring to our mission statement and its aims and objectives, we strive to build a strong, Catholic Community where all children and adults feel valued.

Examples of spiritual and moral development will be particularly evident in the following ways:

- ❖ Religious education work and lessons.
- ❖ Pupil involvement in the life of the school, parish and wider community.
- ❖ The caring ethos and atmosphere within school.
- ❖ Relationships between all members of the school community.

Monitoring and evaluation of Spiritual and Moral development

The spiritual and moral development of all of our children is the responsibility of the whole school community.

We achieve this aim through:

- ❖ Whole staff and band meetings
- ❖ Staff training
- ❖ Governor's meetings
- ❖ Parents meetings
- ❖ Links with the parish and the wider community.

Review :The Head Teacher and staff will review this policy in Spring 2019.

Any suggested amendments will be presented to Governors for discussion and approval.

References to other relevant policies:- Collective Worship, RE, PSHE , Behaviour Policy, SEND Equal Opportunities, Sex Education and Relationships ,

British Values, Teaching and Learning , Curriculum, Marking Policy, Assessment Policy.