

Our Lady's Catholic
Primary School



Spiritual and Moral
Development Policy



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Mission Statement

The aim of our school is:

To create a loving Catholic environment which will help each individual member of the school family grow morally, spiritually and academically in the love of Jesus Christ.

This means we aim to meet our children's needs in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ that God loves us all. This is found in the life of the school through:

- The quality of relationships based on love, care, respect and trust.
- Prayer, reflection and celebration
- Learning and teaching that enables children to reach their full potential.
- Partnership between home, school and parish.

LIVING AND LEARNING IN FAITH

The School Mission Statement, and the aims and objectives stated in it, clearly demonstrate how much the school is dedicated to creating opportunities, within a supportive environment, to guide our pupils in their spiritual and moral development during their time at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School.

At Our Lady's Catholic Primary School we believe that the spiritual is concerned with the inner life of the individual.

- We wish to promote the acquisition of insights which are of enduring worth.
- We hope that insights acquired will lead to positive actions and sense of being.
- We feel that the development of knowledge, skills and understanding is not sufficient for the education of our children.

Through the 'The Way The Truth and The Life' curriculum we are able to promote the spiritual development of our young people. We aim to give opportunities for children to grow spiritually and to be able to reveal that growth.

We want to make Our Lady's Catholic Primary School a distinctive place to be, by setting an atmosphere which will encourage spiritual development; this can be recognised by-

- a caring, welcoming atmosphere
- pupils feeling sufficiently secure to be able to open and confident, wanting to please others and learn for themselves
- an ability to empathise, reflect, be open and warm
- through positive, non-judgemental behaviour, reveal the ability to consider and respect others and their world

Aims and Objectives

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- To give our pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs and the impact they may have on peoples' lives
- To support and develop their religious beliefs
- To recognise the right of others to hold their own views and respect for those who have different beliefs and customs.
- To develop a sense of awe and wonder in the face of the universe
- To encourage them to develop what inspires them and others
- To encourage them to reflect and learn from reflection
- To celebrate difference and mutual respect
- To give our pupils the opportunity to understand feelings and emotions, how they affect people and how they can help each other

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- To provide our pupils with a moral code of behaviour which is applied consistently through all aspects of school life
- To encourage them to develop a sense of self-discipline and responsibility not only for their own actions, but for their responsibilities to others.
- To give them opportunities to explore moral concepts and values
- To provide positive role models
- To provide activities which will prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender and other criteria
- To provide an open and safe learning environment in which pupils are encouraged to express their views and make decisions on 'moral grounds'
- To appreciate the importance of being kind to others and clearly reject unkindness, cruelty or bullying
- To develop a mature sense of self-confidence and self worth

Opportunities for Spiritual and Moral Development

The spiritual and moral development of our pupils is central to everything we do at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School. We seek to promote the above aims and objectives through several approaches. For example:

The General Life of the School

Programmes, groups and special events such as:

- School Council
- Charity and voluntary work
- Retreats
- Achievement assemblies
- Visits and visitors bring a sense of 'awe and wonder', whilst supporting the development of the individual
- Links with local parishes

The **daily act of Collective Worship** is planned to provide all of our pupils with the opportunity to take an active role in 'spiritual/moral' discussion. Time is given for prayer and reflection.

The **School Newsletter/Website** provides an excellent medium for effective recognition, throughout the community, of everyone's efforts and achievements in many areas of school life, thereby enhancing our chances of achieving our overall aims.

Encouraging pupils and staff to give praise and show appreciation is a key factor in living out the Gospel values we speak of in our Mission Statement, and thus forming and sustaining a good ethos. Many unplanned opportunities, especially for spiritual development, occur and we recognise the importance of acknowledging these moments, as we are aware they can have a profound effect on individuals.

Through our Mission Statement and the 'The Way The Truth and The Life' syllabus for Religious Education, we give children opportunities to reveal and develop these characteristics and self understanding through all subjects.

Opportunities in the Curriculum

➤ Through **what** is taught

In addition to Religious Education, Spiritual and Moral Development are an integral part of the delivery of the curriculum. Each subject area provides a range of different learning situations and content which has more or less impact on this development. Some distinct units of the PSHE and Citizenship programme target Spirituality and Morality and therefore have a clear role to play in this respect and the programme is regularly reviewed.

➤ Through **how** it is taught

This is particularly developed through the approaches taken. For example, **critical thinking**, i.e. skills of analysis, evaluation and reflection. **Discussion and debate, participation and developing appropriate values, qualities and attitudes.**

English-to explore the world through words, imaginary events, looking at life stories, using words to express thoughts.

I.C.T. and Maths- to explore the world through numbers, to organise and communicate information, to predict and explore ideas of time and place and size, to seek and explain, look for pattern and order, cause and effect

Science-inquiry into the world, to find a place in the order of things, encountering chaos/disorder, mystery, beauty, presenting challenges, answering questions

Technology-the consideration of human needs, a holistic view of the natural/man made world, perceptions

Art and Music-the bringing together of sensory images, the physical and emotional, to awaken the spiritual self. To express experience by looking for meaning.

Humanities-to focus on the human being past, present and future: personal worth, a sense of place within the community. To be able to stand apart and consider from a distant time or place, evaluate, explore

Physical-to raise awareness of the interconnectedness of emotional, physical and spiritual well being, aiming towards a goal, identity. A feeling of belonging, commitment, challenges, fairness, honesty.

Religious Education -to be able to reflect on personal meaning through an inner world of beliefs and values.