

Holy Family Catholic Primary School, New Springs

Mission Statement

We are a caring family, we pray, learn and grow together

Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

'Within the distinctive character of Catholic education, spiritual and moral development are intimately connected with, though not identical to, religious education, catechesis, collective worship, private prayer and liturgies. However, they are also promoted through all subjects of the curriculum and throughout the general life and work of the school.'

Spiritual and Moral Development – a discussion paper – CES 1995

Rationale

As a Catholic school we are committed to helping every child to grow and develop in their love of God and others. We believe that a Catholic education should provide pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their own social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures. Our curriculum, in all its aspects, reflects the fact that Christ is the foundation of everything we do. We recognise that work towards a spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding is an essential part of every child's educational experience. Through our learning environment and culture, therefore, we aim to encourage the formation of values rooted in a community that shares common values, beliefs and practices.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual Development is about expanding your experience of self and life – learning about whom you are and your connection to God. Teaching children that they are connected to God, and that He loves us no matter what, is fundamental to our faith and enables children to recognise that we are all God's children and as such have been created as loving beings.

We will give our children experiences which will:

- ❖ help them to nurture and sustain self-esteem;
- ❖ help them to create and maintain worthwhile relationships;
- ❖ teach them to be kind to others – we are all God's family;
- ❖ help them to respect life;
- ❖ develop and express their feelings and beliefs;
- ❖ develop their independent thought;
- ❖ enable them to experience moments of stillness and reflection;
- ❖ give them opportunities to reflect on the wonders and mysteries of life;
- ❖ give them opportunities to discuss their beliefs, values and responses to personal experiences.

Moral Development

Morality is about our ability to learn the difference between right and wrong and understand how to make the right choices. Children's experiences at home, the environment around them and their physical, cognitive, emotional and social skills influence their moral development. As a Catholic school we aim to focus on the dignity and worth of each person and a vision of a just, social world.

We will give our children experiences which will enable them to:

- ❖ recognise the unique value of each individual;
- ❖ recognise the challenge of Jesus' teaching;

- ❖ experience and practise reconciliation;
- ❖ listen to 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 judgments.

Social Development

Catholic education also promotes the development of critical skills and the integration of social issues into the learning process. To this end, learning includes a moral and ethical framework from which to discuss current social concerns such as world hunger, the interconnection between issues of justice and peace and the call to ministry in Jesus' name.

We will give our children experiences which will enable them to:

- ❖ participate in acts of charity;
- ❖ experience democracy in action;
- ❖ volunteer their time to help others;
- ❖ develop an understanding of their individual and group identity;
- ❖ begin to understand the Christian principles of social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged.

Cultural Development

Catholic education promotes an appreciation of the value and richness of a child's own culture and that of the cultural diversity in Britain and beyond. It calls for an awareness that cultures, different from one's own, have their own special qualities and that the people of these cultures need to be met and understood as they are, not stereotyped.

We will give our children experiences which will enable them to:

- ❖ recognise that Christianity is a world faith;
- ❖ develop an understanding of their own social and cultural environment;
- ❖ develop an understanding of other cultures;
- ❖ develop an understanding about other world faiths;
- ❖ develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

Conclusion

Gospel values such as justice, wisdom, compassion and integrity are constantly being enacted through all aspects of the life of a school as a community. They can be further developed through exploration and discussion in religious and SMSC education in a Catholic school '....which demands an atmosphere characterised by the search for truth, in which competent, convinced and coherent educators, teachers of learning and of life, may be a reflection, albeit imperfect but still vivid, of the one Teacher. In this perspective, in the Christian educational project all subjects collaborate, each with its own specific content, to the formation of mature personalities.'

The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium – Rome 1997

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