



St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School

POLICY FOR SPIRITUAL AND MORAL EDUCATION

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a Catholic School, St Catherine's is a community in which all members can grow in the knowledge and love of God, themselves and the world in which they live.

Be who God meant you to be and together we can achieve.

Rationale

Spiritual and moral education is fundamental to the development of the individual and concerned with developing a child's ability to distinguish right from wrong, to make appropriate choices and to act upon them from conviction.

The terms *spiritual* and *moral* are not synonymous with religion, therefore the ethos of the school: seeking to foster curiosity, without which there would be no motivation to learn; self-understanding and relationships with other people, without which we cannot function in society; a sense of awe, wonder and creativity and the search for means and purpose in life, also contribute to a pupils' spiritual and moral development.

Personal morality combines the beliefs and value of the individual, those of the social, cultural and religious groups to which he/she belongs and the laws and customs of the wider society.

THE NATURE AND AIMS OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

To enable all children grow in the love of God, themselves and the world in which they live we must ensure that their experiences, at least in school, are conducive to spiritual growth so that we develop the following characteristics in our pupils:

- Pupils have a set of values, principles and beliefs.
- Pupils are open and responsive, aware of their self worth, uniqueness, identity, gifts and talents and are able to celebrate their own and others' achievements;
- Pupils are trusting, in themselves, in others and in God;
- A sense of empathy, concern and passion;
- Pupils are willing to reflect, to take responsibility and to do what is right with courage and hope;
- Pupils will be able to love others, be generous in spirit and respond well to hardship, limitation, frustration and loss.
- Pupils have a sense of awe, wonder and mystery and an understanding of the of quality of silence and awareness

Spiritual education will be promoted by developing:

1. An attitude to life based on:
 - a development of personal beliefs including religious beliefs;
 - an appreciation that people have both individual and shared beliefs on which they base their lives;
 - a growing awareness of the way in which personal understanding contributes to personal identity;
 - an understanding that one's inner resources provide the ability to rise above everyday experiences.
2. A sense of awe, wonder and creativity inspired by:
 - the natural world
 - mystery
 - human achievement with the arts and science
3. A search for meaning and purpose in life by:
 - developing appropriate responses to the challenging experiences of life such as beauty, suffering and death;
 - being concerned by injustice and aggression and their effect on others;
 - a growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to use such feelings as a source of growth and human experience;

4. Self awareness and relationships by:

- developing self respect;
- fostering an appreciation of the individuality of others;
- recognising that every individual has worth;
- building up relationships with others;
- fostering a sense of community.

At St Catherine's, we will develop and promote this through:

- The distinctive Catholic ethos
- Collective worship
- Circle time
- Opportunities for personal reflection
- Hearing His word spoken in Scripture
- Celebration of Mass
- A creative curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder, especially in RE
- Encouraging pupils to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference-asking 'why', 'how' and 'where' as well as 'what'.
- Opportunities to express personal views and insights
- Organised trips and days with the specific focus on spirituality

The Nature and Aims of Moral Development

At the heart of the Church's and schools moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are loved by God. God's love is unconditional and freely given., we have been given the freedom to respond to His love, or reflect Him. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development.

Moral education helps pupils to acquire and is concerned with:

- Understanding the difference between right and wrong and the importance of striving to do right. This understanding will:
- Inform pupils' thinking and actions and help them make the right choices.
- Prompt the constant attempt to become a better person,
- Increase fellow feeling and the willingness to make an effort to understand others;
- Build pupils' respect for themselves, others, their society and their environment;

- Enable pupils to engage in effective moral reasoning;
- Help pupils understand the nature of being human and how to learn from their mistakes.

At St Catherine's we aim to develop the following characteristics in pupils:

Moral education will be promoted by:

Fostering positive school values which include:

- honesty
- reliability
- respecting the rights and property of others
- acting considerably and courteously towards others
- helping those less fortunate or weaker
- taking personal responsibility for one's actions
- self discipline
- confidence to act consistently of their own principles
- a considerate style of life
- willingness to express their views on ethical issues and personal values

We will do this by:

- An awareness that love is at the heart of the Catholic understanding of morality
- Providing a clear moral basis for behaviour
- A curriculum which provides opportunities to explore and develop moral concepts and values
- An open and safe learning environment
- Recognising and addressing breaches of an agreed moral code both in school and outside
- Adults being good role models for children
- Providing models of moral virtue through the curriculum, assemblies and acts of worship
- Encouraging pupils to take responsibilities for their actions

Revised: April 2024

Signed: C Bennett

Signed: S Leck

Date of next review: April 2026

Role: RE co-ordinator

Role: Headteacher