

ST. GEORGE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Spiritual and Moral Policy



2025-2026

St George's Spiritual and Moral Development Policy.

'To learn with kindness, respect and friendship through God's love.'

Aims and Purpose

St George's aims to foster the spiritual and moral development of all our children based upon Gospel values and the Catholic ethos which we endeavour to live out through our daily lives.

The purpose of this policy is to highlight opportunities for both Spiritual and Moral development throughout our school.

R.E , prayer and Worship – Celebration of the Word, have a central place in the whole of our curriculum. Within R.E sessions we invite an active response in life and worship – such activities provide children with an active means of exploring their feelings more freely and deeply than through just words.

Spiritual and moral development of children and staff can be fostered through all areas of the curriculum including maths, English, PE, and science, as well as through the teaching and learning of the 'Come and See' RE curriculum and more recently the 'To Know you more Clearly Curriculum.

We need to remember that as a Catholic School we provide –
'A Catholic curriculum, one that uses not only R.E lessons but other curriculum areas to lead children into an encounter with God.'

Contents of Policy

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The Role of the RE curriculum for Spiritual and Moral development.

To Know you more Clearly: - RED directory is the curriculum for EYFS to year 5. The aim is to provide guidance and practical ways to nurture **spiritual, moral, social and cultural development** (SMSC) in children, while keeping it rooted in the Catholic tradition.

The curriculum supports Spiritual development through:

- **Pupils' Encounter with God:** It helps pupils grow in awareness of God's presence in their lives, deepening prayer, reflection, and a sense of mystery and awe.
- **Prayer life:** Encourages structured opportunities for prayer and liturgy, which helps children develop a habit of turning to God in both gratitude and need.
- **Reflection:** Builds space for children to think about meaning, purpose, and their own relationship with God, which goes beyond academic learning.

The curriculum supports moral development through:

- **Being rooted in Gospel values:** It grounds moral teaching in Christ's example, so children see right and wrong not just as rules but as part of following Jesus.
- **Conscience formation:** Helps pupils develop an inner moral compass, learning how to make good choices with freedom and responsibility.

- **Practical application:** Links Catholic Social Teaching to real life—so pupils don't just hear values like justice, dignity, or stewardship, but practice them through school life and outreach.

What makes the RED Directory especially helpful is that it gives staff **structured pathways** to weave all this into school life, ensuring spiritual and moral growth isn't just confined to RE lessons but permeates the whole curriculum and ethos.

'Come and See' is the curriculum programme that has been influential in developing the spiritual and moral development of our pupils over a number of years, it's not just about imparting knowledge of scripture and doctrine—it's about forming the whole child in relationship with others, with God, and with the wider world. Year 6 are the only year to still be working on this curriculum.

The curriculum supports spiritual development through:

- **The topics:** Each topic begins with *Explore*, which starts from the child's own experience of family, school and community, showing them they're part of something bigger.
- **Dialogue and empathy:** The programme includes; big questions, class discussions, and opportunities to listen to one another's experiences—helping pupils value different voices.
- **Wider world:** Many units link to global themes and other faiths, encouraging respect, tolerance, and an understanding of diversity.

Moral development is supported through:

- **It being rooted in the Gospel:** Pupils encounter Jesus' teaching and example, learning about forgiveness, justice, honesty, and love in action.
- **Conscience and decision-making:** Topics invite children to think about choices and their consequences, "What would Jesus do?" becomes a moral compass.
- **Catholic Social Teaching in action:** Values like dignity of the human person, care for creation, and solidarity are woven through, encouraging pupils to live out their faith in practical ways.

We further aim to enhance Spiritual development throughout our school by:

- Encouraging our children to engage in activities that involve listening, discussing and reflecting.
- Giving the opportunity to engage in activities which involve questioning, valuing, creating, envisioning, empathising and imagining.
- Reflecting on values, experience and attitudes of others e.g. discussion in History or Geography on environmental issues, equality, historical changes. In Literacy through story and drama. PE – attitudes and fairness / PSED through circle time activities and discussions.
- Providing opportunities to understand and reflect on the physical world of God's creation through R.E, maths, DT, science as well as outdoor sessions and Forest School, assemblies and Celebration of the Word.
- Allowing children to explore their own feelings and emotions and to express them in their work through poetry, musical composition, creative arts, dance and prayers.
- To encouraging children to recognise God's presence in their work and lives, giving thanks to God for their gifts and talents, to celebrate and appreciate one another's abilities and achievements – good work assembly, prayer times.
- Developing / enhancing the children's appreciation for beauty, truth, love, goodness and wonder.

We aim to enhance Moral development in our school by:

- Teaching children to recognise and respect the codes and morals of the different cultures represented in school and in the wider community.

- Frequently evaluating and updating our school mission statement. From this we have devised a framework for our moral teaching. These aims and values are on which St George's basis its whole school ethos and contains everyday values such as honesty, respect and truthfulness and rejects bullying, cheating and dishonesty.
- Rewarding good moral decisions and behaviours from the children – rewards, certificates, dojo points and class reward systems.
- Direct teaching on feelings, emotions and giving children a sense of empathy and the impact they can have on other.
- Clear and concise anti bullying and behaviour policies which are also promoted and reinforced in the classroom and on the playground.
- Our inclusion policy encourages the whole school to be inclusive and promotes measures to prevent discrimination of any kind.
- Our children being given the responsibility and some ownership of expected behaviours and consequences for breaking rules through devising class codes of conduct and through forming and operating a School Council.

Opportunities for the development of Spiritual and Moral development are in every aspect of our school life and not just RE

The Role of the Teacher in Moral and Spiritual Development

As teachers we are helping to develop the 'whole person' to live in a modern-day society. As an educational establishment we are concerned with the academic side of development, but as a Catholic School offering a Christ centred curriculum we are concerned with much more than only academia.

All adults in a school environment teach Spiritual and Moral development every day. Moral standards can be promoted consciously or unconsciously therefore values and standards set out through the mission statement should be evident in the life and daily workings of our school. These can be further promoted through-

- Being good role models and leading by example. All staff should have respect and a good relationship with each other; they should also have respect and a good relationship with their pupils.
- Rewarding the good behaviours we see.
- Expecting high standards of both work and behaviour from the children.
- Aiming 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 eventually allowing them to draw their own conclusions.
- Allowing time for reflection – whole class, group, individual prayer/worship times, in RE lessons, circle times and thinking time at the end of the day.
- Encouraging imaginative thinking through all areas of the curriculum – dance, drama, poetry, art etc.

Creating an environment for Spiritual and Moral development.

We hope to create a warm and welcoming environment at St George's that lives out our mission statement and shows appreciation and encouragement for every member of our school family.

The staff lead by example by working together as a team, children are encouraged to be caring and sensitive to the needs of others and to take responsibility for their actions.

The physical environment should be stimulating which displays and values our children's contributions and work. The values and aims of our school should be continually reinforced through images, posters, exhibitions and classroom displays.

Each classroom has an area for worship and reflection. The hall also has a focus for worship that is changed weekly in line with our Celebration of the Word themes.

Planning for Moral and Spiritual development.

Direct planning and teaching can be seen in the Celebration of the Word planners by staff, assembly notes and planning and RE curriculum planning.

We will also always be ready to be spontaneous with regards to Spiritual and Moral teaching and to develop any ideas and opportunities that come from the children or arise out of an unexpected situation.

Liturgy and Worship to promote Moral and Spiritual development.

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

The celebration of the sacraments – children are prepared in partnership with home, school and catechists from the Church for the sacraments of Reconciliation and The Eucharist. (Year 4 pupils)

Personal prayer and reflection – children are encouraged to develop their own personal prayers as well as the more traditional prayers of the Church.

Provision for Special Needs Children – as with all other areas, we offer an equality of opportunity for all children through differentiation and age appropriate activities.

Offering a whole school spirituality day in the summer term – this is on a different theme each year and offers the children and staff an opportunity to reflect, pray and contemplate their personal relationship with God.

Please also refer to our Prayer and Liturgy Policy

Opportunities for Assessment

Assessing the spirituality and morality of a child is of course an impossible task, but children can be encouraged to assess themselves with regard to the acquisition of attitudes, and teachers can provide opportunities and devise strategies for them to do so, such as observing the children's ability-

- To listen
- To ask relevant questions
- To be still and reflective
- To understand
- To remember
- To appreciate
- To demonstrate through their actions.

Above all we must respect individuality and encourage original thinking.

Evaluation of Spiritual and Moral Development

Staff have a responsibility to review all areas of the curriculum on a regular basis and evaluate how moral and spiritual development is being promoted and its effectiveness.

They should also undertake regular reviews of RE policies and the school mission statement. This evaluation takes place during staff meetings and INSET days.

Review date July 26 (TMawtus)