

Moral Development Policy



**At Our Lady & All Saints
Catholic Primary School**

Reviewed Jan 2016



A Christ-centred family, illuminated by the light of faith, inspired to achieve

A Christ centred family, (We will achieve this by...)

- fostering positive and supportive relationships
- being sensitive to the needs of others
- following positive class rules and codes of conduct
- reaching out to the wider community
- Valuing parents as educators
- involving ourselves in community events
- welcoming parents and friends of the school to celebrations, acts of collective worship and assemblies
- supporting the Parish by meaningful preparation for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and Eucharist
- supporting those less fortunate through fundraising, eg CAFOD, Good Shepherd

...illuminated by the light of faith, (We will achieve this by...)

- adults being role models
- with Jesus as our example, offering service to others
- Creating an environment of respect where every individual is valued as a child of God
- celebrating and rejoicing in our faith and experiences
- celebrating difference through our understanding of other faiths and cultures
- using every opportunity to promote spiritual and moral development
- participating in high quality collective worship and enriching liturgies
- delivering enthusiastically a well resourced, well planned 'Come and See' Scheme of work.

... inspired to achieve. (We will achieve this by...)

- discovering and encouraging the talents of every individual
- giving children the opportunity and encouragement to try new things
- recognising that each individual learns in their own different way, making allowances for preferences
- Creating a learning culture, Classroom Community, collaborative and personalised learning
- building self esteem
- delivering quality INSET to continue professional development enhanced by Performance Management for staff
- Valuing effort
- using a range of teaching styles to cater for all abilities and learning styles
- embracing all opportunities to experience the joy of discovery, solving problems and being creative
- offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- issuing written reports and results
- embracing new technologies to improve home/school partnership
- meeting challenge with openness and bravery valuing an open dialogue between school and home by inviting parents to information evenings and pupil progress meetings
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“In the light of God’s love, together we will grow.”

Aims

In preparing our children for their life journey, we aim, through the curriculum, to foster an awareness of living as individuals in a community which demands an understanding of and positive, personal responses to the moral values of our society.

The purpose of this Policy is to highlight opportunities for moral development within and around the curriculum:

‘The human person needs to live in a society. Society is not for him an extraneous addition but a requirement of nature’

(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1878, 1879)

Our Mission Statement describes us as a Christian family. “In the light of God’s love, together we will grow.” We aim to discover and encourage the good things in every individual. We encourage and expect children to *live out* this Mission Statement with and through the support and example of the adults in our school.

We will endeavour to foster an environment of respect for others; visible through positive relationships and sound judgments based on the Gospel values of love, truth, integrity, equality, service, faith, justice, fairness and forgiveness.

Objectives

To achieve these aims, we will:

- provide opportunities for the development of moral conscience
- enable children to consider choices
- enable children to make choices
- study choices made by others and the consequent impact upon society
- encourage independence and confidence in all aspects of life
- foster a caring community of people who think of others needs
- foster respect for all members of our community
- motivate pupils to behave in a moral way through reward and celebration systems
- provide opportunities for choice and decision making
- to promote the British values agenda through our school life and curriculum

Role of the Curriculum in Moral Development

R.E., liturgy and collective worship also encourage moral development through discussion and reflection upon aspects of personal life, dilemmas and choices to make. Through the Parish, supported by school, Catholic children are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Y4; every child meets the reconciliation topic through Come and See at their own level of development every Summer Term.

The curriculum provided for all children offers many opportunities to develop morally in terms of conscience, making choices and the impact of these choices. It offers opportunities to reflect upon the choices made by others and the results and impact of these choices. Some examples might include:

Literacy: letter writing, questions arising from the study of literature, discussing issues, persuasion

Science/Geography: environmental issues, health questions, personal safety

History: conflict, success, failure, cause and effect, bias

PSHE: choices, difference, acceptance, tolerance, conscience, multi traditional/faith community. Making decisions.

PE: team co-operation

Forest School: team co-operation, reliance on others, sharing, honesty, resilience

Children are encouraged from an early age to be independent, and to make judgments and choices based on an increasing awareness of themselves as a member of a group.

Children are challenged to explain decisions and judgments.

Children may be given differentiated opportunities to access these aspects of moral development. They are given positive and valuable feedback following our marking policy.

The Role of Relationships in Moral Development

The school provides an ethos which encourages personal growth following Gospel values.

By providing a secure community, children will develop a variety of relationships during their time with us.

Children are encouraged to co-operate within class and in times of play. Group and paired work allows the development of the skills of listening and sharing opinions. Respect for other views is important.

Staff have high expectations encouraging a supportive culture, pupil – pupil, staff member – pupil, staff member – staff member. Staff are expected to act as role models in their behaviour to one another.

Children are valued as individuals. Children’s work is shared and celebrated with others either within lessons, during an assembly or in display.

Children are encouraged to consider school, local, national and international issues when appropriate. Children are expected to welcome all visitors and display good manners, when in school, and out of school. They are led into feelings of empathy and understanding eg. CAFOD.

Links between Moral Development and School Policies/Systems

Policies: Inclusion (including SEND)
 Equal Opportunities
 Anti bullying
 Behaviour
 RSE.
 Online-safety

These policies are based on sound moral principles of equality and opportunity for all.

Buddy System: Older children setting an example of good behaviour and involvement within the school.
Starts in Reception but continues through the years.

House system: All children are in a ‘house’ which is a way of collectively celebrating achievement and motivating children to work hard, behave well and be good citizens. House points are awarded to reward these.

Code of Conduct: Children are encouraged to think about their behaviour in terms of the effect upon their friends. Parents are annually asked to sign a home school agreement with their child to support this.

Class rules: Children annually (within their own classroom) decide upon the rules to be followed which will ensure a happy environment for all.

Schools Council: Elected members from each year group form the school’s council, which discusses and makes decisions on behalf of the other children.

Head pupils: Class 4 elect head pupils for the following year who are responsible for being role models within the school

Rewards: House points and Merits are given for academic achievement, good behaviour and acts of citizenship. Children are ‘noticed’ for doing positive acts and rewarded with prizes. Friends of the week.

Verbal feedback is very important and encouraged between children as well as between adult and child. Star awards, stickers etc are given by teachers when appropriate.

Awards evening- School Council award
Citizenship in each class chosen by the children