



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.”

A Policy for Spiritual Development at Our Lady and All Saints R. C. Primary School

Aims

In preparing our children for their journey through life we aim to promote every child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination for the spiritual.

We aim to effectively utilise opportunities for spiritual development that occur at times in order to enhance aspects of the curriculum.

R.E. and worship have a central place in the whole of our curriculum and within our R. E. 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 words.

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’

Objectives

We will meet this aim

- by encouraging children to reflect upon their personal existence through discussion and personal reflection
- by providing daily opportunities for prayer and reflection on the presence of God
- by providing a variety of stimuli to aid reflection and thoughts
- by using a variety of traditional and familiar prayers and hymns
- by using every opportunity to develop a sense of awe and wonder in the world

Opportunities for Spiritual Development within the National Curriculum

Opportunities for Spiritual Development are in every aspect of school life.

Within our delivery of the National Curriculum pupils are encouraged to:-

- * reflect on values, experiences and attitudes of others
eg in discussion of History/Geography/Environmental issues
in English through story
during P.E. - attitudes/fairness
during P.S.H.E – particularly through circle time activities as well of course as through R.E. lessons
- * understand and reflect on the physical world of God's creation
eg through R.E., Art, Science, Geography, P.E., Maths, D.T. as well as
during Assemblies and Collective Worship
- * to explore their own feelings and express them in their work.
eg through poetry, musical composition, creative arts, dance, R.E. - prayers
- * to recognise God's presence in their work and in their lives
eg give thanks to God for their gifts and talents, celebrate and appreciate
one another's abilities and achievements – merit assembly. R.E. and
prayertimes.

The Role of the Teacher in 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.

We as teachers believe that we have a vital role in the spiritual development of our children through our questioning techniques, the times we offer for reflection, the environment we create and our planning.

Questioning Techniques

We aim 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 in some cases to allow them to draw their own conclusions when they are older.

Times for Reflection

Reflection is an important part of the daily life our school. Children are invited to reflect during whole-school and class times of collective worship; in R. E. lessons, circle times and thinking time at the end of the day.

Imaginative thinking forms part of the curriculum through a variety of subjects, eg English, Dance, Drama, Art etc.

Environment we Create

The environment we create comes under two headings - the relationships within school and the physical environment.

We hope to always create a warm and welcoming environment that lives out our mission of appreciation and encouragement of every member of our school family.

To create a warm, caring and loving environment we have to have 'respect' between all members of the school community.

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.

Within the physical environment of the school, we aim to provide a stimulating environment which displays and values children's contributions and work. Each classroom has an area for worship and reflection. The hall also has a focus for worship that is changed regularly according to the R.E. topic or Church season.

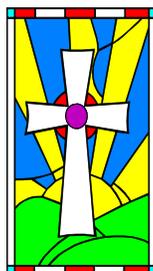
The superb location of our school is regularly brought to the attention of our children and work is being undertaken to improve it even more. We are also utilising the neighbouring wooded area to increase the children's direct interaction with the outdoor environment.

We have a faith garden which is used for worship and is being developed by many members of the community.

Planning for Spirituality

In our planning we will, when appropriate, make particular reference to spiritual development. We will always be ready to be spontaneous and develop any ideas that come unexpectedly during a lesson, particularly from a child.

Pupils are supported in their Collective Worships to include times to develop spirituality in their own way following the process; Gather, Listen, Respond, Go forth.



Liturgy and Worship to promote Spiritual Development

‘The opportunities provided by a Catholic school for pupils to deepen their personal relationship with Christ in personal prayer, Liturgy and the celebration of the Sacraments brings the spiritual life of the school to its most explicit expression’

Spiritual and Moral Development
across the Curriculum.
C.E.S. 1995

(Please refer to school’s policy on Collective Worship)

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

Liturgy

eg Masses, Services of Reconciliation, Wednesday morning whole-school prayertimes, Lent and Advent reflections.

Celebration of the Sacraments

Children are prepared by the parish in partnership with home and the school for the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation and the Eucharist using the ‘With you always’ programme.

Personal Prayer and Reflection

Children are encouraged to develop their own personal prayers as well as to know the more traditional prayers of the Church.

Children of all ages are invited to share spontaneous prayers with their classmates by passing round a candle or any other object.

Reflective and imaginative prayers are also used within whole school and class prayertimes. Within our reflections we aim to direct children to a deeper understanding of themselves and how God works in their lives.

Provision for Special Needs Children

As with all other areas we offer an equality of opportunity for all children through differentiation and age and development appropriate activities.

We once again aim to live out our mission of development of all our pupils to their ‘fullest potential’

Evaluation

Teachers will evaluate individual lessons and blocks of lessons and consider whether the planned opportunities for spiritual development took place. It would also be interesting to include the spontaneous spiritual development that took place.

Opportunities for Assessment

When teachers and children assess a piece of work they must always be respectful of individuality and encourage original thinking.

Assessing the spirituality of a child is of course a difficult 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 respond to questions
- to be still and reflective
- to understand
- to remember
- to appreciate

Above all, we must respect individuality and encourage original thinking.

We will use Level Descriptors, AT2, to make judgments about our children's attainment.

Reviewed May 2015