

2018-2019

Collective Worship Policy



St. Bernadette's

Catholic Primary

Growing Together in

Faith, Love &

Learning



St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School Spiritual Development Policy

AIMS:

It is the aim of our Catholic school to enable our children to:

- Develop an imaginative sense of awe, wonder and reverence.
- Develop a sense of the presence of God in their lives; to reflect upon this presence and respond individually.
- Acknowledge that the Church provided insights into and explanations for the challenging experiences in life such as death, suffering and encounters with good and evil.
- Learn that there is something beyond material wealth in life and value their inner experiences and consciousness.
- Respect how people of other faiths respond to the spiritual dimension in life.
- Reflect upon their own values and attitudes in light of the Gospel teachings.

Pupils at St. Bernadette's show evidence of their Spiritual Development when they display:

1. KNOWLEDGE

At St. Bernadette's we believe that 'Spiritual Development' is not synonymous with 'religious development' and is therefore not considered to be just part of the Religious Education programme of study. All areas of our school's curriculum may in some way contribute to the spiritual development of our pupils. Through science discovery, mathematics phenomenon and creativity, (to name a few), we strive to help our pupils understand the way God works in our lives and in the wider spectrum, and thus exploring beneath and beyond mere factual knowledge.

The 'Come and See' programme and the Collective Worship themes, however, do provide a more formal framework in which children can develop a sense of feeling the presence of God in their lives, have opportunities to reflect upon their own personal existence and make sense of the world in which they live. They experience the teachings of the Gospels and stories through which they become familiar with the life and teachings of Jesus.

2. UNDERSTANDING

Through the curriculum subjects of English, history, geography and science, the children in our care hear about how, over time people have sought to explain the creation and existence of the universe.

We consider it important for the children to realise that despite our personal beliefs as individuals, we, as Christians should have some understanding of how people have been inspired by the natural world, mystery and human achievement. It is through this

understanding that our children can begin to recognise and value the worth of each individual and develop the ability to build up relationships with others.

3. BELIEFS

It is expected that through the curriculum and through their exploration and discussion of real life experiences, children at our school will grow in faith, have belief in and an awareness of themselves through their deepening knowledge of creation and revelation.

Through our Collective Worship and timetabled 'Come and See' lessons the children are encouraged to be engaged with fundamental questions and explore their own and others' religious beliefs, learning how their own faith and love of God can be freely expressed. We provide learning situations for the children to appreciate that different people do have individual and shared beliefs, upon which they base their lives and how these beliefs contribute to each individuals' own personal identity.

4. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOUR

By gaining in knowledge and understanding our ultimate aim is for the children to develop an awareness of themselves in terms of their thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities, experiences and a growing development of self respect and acceptance of individual identity.

Through regular Collective Worship sessions a sensitive environment is provided for the children to explore, exercise and express their beliefs.

We aim to cater for those children who experience specific difficulties in these areas of self development. Our understanding allows us to help children to feel valued when they express their innermost thoughts and feelings through art, music, exercise, imagination, writing and craft work.

5. A PERSONAL RESPONSE

It is our intention to encourage our pupils' intellectual curiosity, questioning and exploration of the meaning of experiences. We encourage and provide time for children to explore for themselves, to question and to reflect upon times of hardship and suffering and responding to challenging experiences in life such as illness and death, and positive and inspirational examples of beauty and kindness.

We feel we are preparing the children to respond to the important questions and circumstances they will undoubtedly face in their lives, whether they are hurt, overwhelmed, delighted or disappointed. The understanding that it is important to control emotions and feelings is underpinning in our teaching, as we strive to teach the children to use these feelings as a source of growth and development. The children are encouraged to respond to spiritual moments in their Spiritual Journals.

INCLUSION

At St. Bernadette's we recognise our responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our pupils. This is outlined in our Local Offer. All aspects of the curriculum reflect the three principles essential to developing a more inclusive curriculum.

- Setting suitable learning challenges.
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs.
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

CW In Action

An act of *Collective Worship* takes place every day and is a very important part of school life, making space for children and staff to come together and share in praise, worship through learning, music, reflection and prayer. *Collective Worship* follows a cycle of planning based on key Catholic Beliefs and Values. We have a calendar of *Collective Worship* events which follows the liturgical year.

Our *Worship* is inclusive and gives all of the school community the chance to be part of the experience, while respecting the integrity of family and cultural backgrounds. Father John, our Parish Priest, visits the school regularly. Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday we come together as a whole school or in key stages. This is an opportunity to reflect and celebrate on the children's achievements academically, socially and extra-curricular and share the spiritual gifts shared in the Bible, together as one family.

Each class delivers *Collective Worship* in class twice a week. From Year 3 upwards, the children take the lead in planning, organising and delivering the worship in one of these sessions each week. From time to time a whole class plans and delivers collective worship to which parents are invited. *Collective Worship* makes very clear links between charities the school supports, key Bible stories and people who have modelled great faith and love throughout time. We hold termly 'WOW days and weeks when the children join together in school 'families' to celebrate, contemplate and praise God. Each child takes part in *Christian Meditation* each week which allows them space to reflect and contemplate.

A pupil elected body called the 'GIFT Team (Growing Together in Faith Team)' meet every half term, representing the children in each class. Alongside the *Collective Worship Leader*, The GIFT Team help to monitor, evaluate and suggest new ideas in support of our Catholic Distinctiveness to help everyone grow on their spiritual journey.

Parents are entitled to withdraw their child from *Collective Worship*, if they wish. We ask that parents discuss this with the class teacher first, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for the supervision of any child withdrawn from this activity.

Please make reference to our Spiritual Statement that covers the essence of *Collective Worship* in action at St Bernadette's

Written with reference to:

Come and See - Catholic Religious Education Programme

The Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools.

Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development-An Ofsted Discussion Paper

Spiritual and Moral Development across the curriculum-A discussion paper-Catholic Education Service

Last reviewed : Sept 2018