

Spiritual and Moral Policy

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School



Approved by:

Date: Autumn Term
2023

Last reviewed on: September 2023

Next review due by: September 2024

Growing Together in Faith, Love and Learning

At St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, children receive a Catholic education that has Gospel values at its very heart. We recognise that the spiritual and moral development of pupils contributes to their ability to learn and achieve. Therefore, we provide pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own religious beliefs and values (including a sense of right and wrong), recognise and reflect on their feelings and emotions, and develop an appreciation of the diversity and richness of cultures.

Spiritual Development

Aims:

- To develop personal and religious beliefs
- To develop a love of Christ and to put Gospel values into practice as caring, happy Christians
- To help children to understand the Catholic faith through RE lessons, attending mass, assemblies, prayer and liturgy and preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist
- To develop a sense wonder and mystery in the world
- To enable children to express themselves freely
- To teach children to value their friendships, the school and parish community and to be prepared for the challenges that such relationships may bring

Objectives:

To enable children to develop:

- a set of values, principles and beliefs which inform their perspective on life and how they behave
- an understanding of feelings and emotions and how these may affect their behaviour and the behaviour of others
- a sense of empathy, concern and compassion
- respect for themselves and others

Provision for spiritual development:

- The approach to spiritual development is cross-curricular with Come and See lessons at its core.
- We value pupils' questions and allow them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- The curriculum is broad and balanced, allowing space for creativity.
- We provide children with a range of opportunities and experiences to develop their own spirituality as well as an understanding and respect for other religions and belief systems.
- The children can explore their thoughts, feelings and opinions in a safe space.
- The behaviour policy is restorative and positively encourages children to show respect, empathy and consideration for others, whilst developing responsibility and self-discipline.

Moral Development

Aims

To enable children to:

- understand how to put into practice Gospel values
- recognise what is right and wrong
- make good, informed choices
- assume moral responsibility through belief and conviction
- ensure that their behaviour reflects the teachings of Christ

Objectives:

- To help children to distinguish between what is right and wrong, based on the teachings of Christ and moral codes of their own and other cultures.
- To help our children to respect themselves as well as others in the school community so that they can work cooperatively.
- To introduce children to the beliefs and values of people of other faiths and cultures so that they may approach the wider world with an open mind and respect for all.
- To help children to make informed choices by providing them with information, advice and support.
- To encourage children to express their views and let their voice be heard, whilst also listening to others with tolerance and respect.
- To help children to understand that they can have an impact on the world and make a difference through things such as fundraising, making a 'live simply' pledge and being part of the school council.

Provision for moral development:

- Through the teaching of Come and See and the new RED, the Christian moral perspective will be emphasised while also sharing models of morality in other faiths and religions.
- Alongside Come and See and the new RED, assemblies, collective worship, masses and PSHE will teach the children how to put into practice the morals and values that are important to us as Christians.
- Throughout school life, high expectations of behaviour are made clear and children are taught to respect others and reflect on their own choices.
- Through the quality of relationships and interactions, staff model fairness, integrity and respect whilst supporting children in resolving conflict.
- Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions.
- Children are encouraged to challenge things that they know to be wrong, and are taught to do this in an appropriate manner.

- In working towards the Live Simply award through CAFOD, children are learning to take responsibility for our world and do what is needed to help others in our community, our country and the wider world.
- Schools provide extra curricular activities, such as 'board game club' to promote moral development.
- The books provided in our reading spine explore diversity and justice, allowing ample opportunity for children to question and discuss issues of morality.
- A whole school approach to 'zones of regulation' teach children to understand their feelings and emotions and to self-regulate.
- Visitors to the school such as anti-discrimination workshops, hate-crime workshops and cyber-crimes officers, allow children to understand how their morals, rooted in Gospel values, apply to the wider world, and they can develop their perspective on what is right and wrong.
- Class Dojo is used as an award scheme throughout school, celebrating not only academic achievements, but positive decisions and actions made by children acting in line with our shared morals and values.
- Charity work and regular fundraising provide an opportunity for us all, as a school community, to do what is morally right and care for those who are less fortunate than us.
- In preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, children in Year 4 learn about forgiveness, compassion and empathy, tolerance, self-worth and respect.
- RSHE- St. Bernadette's teaching Relationships, Sex and Health Education through the Learning to Love agreed syllabus, Journey in Love, as recommended by Liverpool Archdiocese. The programme is delivered with sensitivity, ensuring that all family circumstances are recognised and respected.