

ST TERESA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Spiritual and Moral Guidance Policy

Reviewed by Governing Body and staff
Spring term 2024

ST TERESA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT:

A welcoming family school, growing and achieving together, with Jesus as our side.

In consequence of our school mission it is a fundamental aim of St. Teresa's to be an inclusive school. To be a school which:

- Is a caring community
- Provides and respects equal opportunities
- Offers partnership between school, parents and parish
- Reflects upon the teachings of Christ and puts them into practice
- Values all of the school community
- Its members show respect for themselves, each other and their learning environment.

We define an inclusive school as one where:

- Everyone, irrespective of age, gender, ability or disability, race or religion is encouraged and given equal opportunity to participate in the full life of the school
- All of the school community are given the opportunity and support to achieve their true potential
- All of the school community, and the contributions they make to the life of the school, are valued; everyone is treated with mutual respect, care and consideration
- Everyone feels empowered to play a full and effective role in the school.

Principles of the Policy

The spiritual & moral development of our students lies at the heart of all the activities of St Teresa's school. This is guided by the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church. Central to it is the growth of our relationship with Jesus Christ, permeating all aspects of our school life and work.

Spiritual development across the curriculum is concerned with the individual's growth in faith through his or her deepening knowledge of creation and revelation. Moral development across the curriculum is about how individuals – pupils and teachers – increasingly live that faith within the community, in school, home, parish and the wider world. At St Teresa's these principles are embedded within, and lived through, the school's Mission Statement.

Aims of Spiritual Development

We recognise that members of our school community are at different stages in their faith journey. Mindful of this, we aim to enhance the children's spiritual development through:

- acquiring insight into their personal existence
- making sense of their life experiences
- developing the human capacity to go beyond the physical, tangible reality
- developing a sense of wonder, awe, reverence, imagination
- developing a sense of the presence of God in their lives
- living the Mission Statement and School Values, creating an atmosphere permeated by the Gospel spirit of love, forgiveness and reconciliation

We recognise that the school can make a valuable contribution to the lives of families, the parish and wider Church and community.

Equality and Inclusion Statement

At St Teresa's Primary School we aim to provide equality of opportunity for all children whatever their age, ability, gender, race, religion, or background. We aim to create an environment that values each pupil and enables them to achieve their full potential. As an educationally inclusive school the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every pupil matters, and our inclusive practice means that all learners are supported. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is accessible to all learners, providing the opportunity for all pupils to achieve their potential. As such we plan and resource our learning, in line with our whole school policies, to enable all pupils to make good and sustained progress. In our planning we take due regard of factors such as classroom organisation, learning materials and the learning environment.

The opportunities and experiences we provide enable all our pupils to participate fully and give their best across all aspects of school life. We place great value on the quality of relationships within our school community. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which success is celebrated and all those connected to the school feel proud of their identity and able to participate fully in school life. We appreciate that children may have special educational needs throughout, or at any time during their school career. At St Teresa's Primary School we aim to facilitate the full inclusion of

pupils with special educational needs. We will tackle discrimination by the positive promotion of equality and the creation of an environment which champions respect for all.

Opportunities for spiritual development

We will meet these aims by:

- developing each person's relationship with God through the celebration of Holy Mass, the sacraments, feasts within the Christian calendar and collective worship
- providing opportunities for prayer and reflection, developing techniques such as listening, being still and quiet, perceiving the senses, being aware of the recent moment, imaginary journeys, guided imagery, attention to an object, exploring stories and parables etc.
- optional participation in prayer groups (Key Stage 2)
- developing a sense of God in their lives
- deepening knowledge and understanding of the Catholic and other major faiths of the world.
- developing positive relationships in the school community
- developing a positive self- image and self-esteem in pupils
- developing the ability to be aware of the unseen dimension to life
- developing a spirit of enquiry and open-mindedness enhanced by the use of skilful and sensitive questioning by the teacher
- developing self-knowledge and values by which to live
- developing creativity by expressing innermost thoughts, imagination and feelings through art, appropriate music, literature, mathematics and crafts.
- developing feelings and emotions; by being moved by beauty and kindness, hurt by injustice or aggression; through a growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to use such feelings as a source for growth.
- developing links with the world and through fund raising, creating an environment of care and compassion

Moral Development

Moral development has at its foundation, values. Values are the principles that inform judgements as to what is morally good or bad. Attitudes to other people and their actions is the key part in our decisions to how we respect these others and their actions. Values both inform and influence behaviour and therefore are fundamentally important both to school life and wider society.

It is important that as a school we have clear expectations of morals and values. Each child should:

- Be knowledgeable about standards of right and wrong,
- Be encouraged to develop skills of moral reasoning,
- Be willing to conduct themselves in a responsible manner,
- Be prepared to take responsibility for their own actions.

These core values should not be limited to knowledge of right or wrong or the ability to make moral judgments but should seek to affect behaviour. The

learning of how to make responsible decisions is of paramount importance. Also that respect for life, property and the environment is of extreme importance for a stable society.

Aims and Purpose

At St Teresa's school we aim to:

- Provide an ordered environment that fosters constructive relationships between young people and adults.
- Be explicit and coherent about values, planning the best way to communicate these values in our school
- Consciously convey values
- Develop skills that enable young people to make wise decisions and develop acceptable values, attitudes and behaviours

Opportunities for Moral Development

For our school to play this important role in moral development we will try to enable each child to:

- Know what is expected of them,
- Understand why such behaviour is expected,
- Be actively involved in determining the rules they are expected to observe,
- Be given a lead by example from all members of society, especially those in authority both in our school and wider community,
- Be able to make intelligent and responsible moral decisions as situations outside their experience require,
- Have the will to do the "right thing".

We will endeavour to do this by

- creating and sustaining a welcoming and sympathetic environment that actively provides planned activities to promote social skills.
- setting clear rules based on consideration for others. We recognize that responsibility and discipline should be inseparable.
- using discussion as an opportunity for adults to encourage moral development, based on real life situations with direct relevance to the children. This will allow the children to understand the criteria for making moral judgments and develop attitudes accordingly.
- active involvement with charities, supporting those in need on a local, national and global level.

Policy reviewed: 2024

Next review: 2027