



St Anne's Catholic Primary School

Moral Development Policy

'Aspire to be more'

AIMS:

It is the aim of this Catholic school to:

- *Provide children with the knowledge to understand right and wrong and to have respect for themselves and others.
- *Provide an environment that encourages all children to freely choose to do the right thing.
- *Strive to be a community in which the Gospel values of freedom, justice and love flourish.
- *To reinforce the moral teachings of the Church through a loving and caring community.

Pupils at St. Anne's show evidence of their Moral Development when they display:

1. THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE

Children are provided with a wealth of opportunities to become familiar with and use the language and ideas of morality through:

- *The 'Come and See' scheme of work and the Religious Education Directory - as directed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.
- *Stories from the Gospels, traditional stories, fables, moral tales and dilemmas in the media.
- *Collective Worship time - daily worship.
- *PSHE and RSHE
- *Assemblies/Worship time - some of which are planned and led by members of the teaching staff and children.

*Pupil ambassadors - providing a voice for the pupils

2. UNDERSTANDING

Opportunities are provided for all children to develop their personal understanding of the nature and purpose of moral discussion.

Circle time enables children of all ages to speak, listen, interact and share choices and concerns, with the underlying principle of respecting and acknowledging different people's culture, race, gender and viewpoints.

This is a time for private, personal discussion in a trusting environment and has a key role in promoting and enriching the children's understanding of how morality plays a part in the decision making process.

It is commonplace for children to discuss problems and incidents and discuss outcomes, in order to help each other understand how their actions impact on other people in the school and perhaps also, the wider community.

3. SELF AWARENESS/POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

In order for relationships with others to be successful, our school acknowledges the importance of self-image and worth and thus consciously promotes and practises the building of self-esteem, self-control and responsibility for oneself, by recognising the importance of all aspects of the growth of the individual.

It is encouraged, when lapses in self-discipline occur, that incidents be acknowledged by the children involved, so that they realise there are consequences and that they know that they are part of a forgiving community where they can seek forgiveness and strive to improve.

In order to foster tolerance and respect for other children in our school and in our local community and to encourage truthfulness, compassion and co-operation, the headteacher and staff endeavour to reinforce these qualities whenever opportunities arise. The school's positive approach to the children and our school environment, and the respect of the staff for each other, provide examples of love and care that greatly contribute to the school's ethos.

On a wider scale; national and worldwide issues are referred to (often during Collective Worship and Assembly time) at a level appropriate to the age and ability of the children. Discussions regarding global issues like war and peace, human rights, duties and responsibilities, the environment and equal opportunities encourage children to develop personal viewpoints and values, whilst maintaining respect for other people.

4. THE DISPOSITION TO ACT AND BEHAVE APPROPRIATELY

At St. Anne's it is expected that all children should be given the chance to make informed decisions as to what they hold as right and wrong, why they make these judgements and how they should act. We have a very comprehensive Behaviour policy in place.

Positive behaviour is a key priority and as a whole school, we enable our pupils to become increasingly aware of their need to be well informed, to think rationally and

impartially, look for the greater good, before making moral decisions and judgements. The emphasis throughout our school is to praise and reward good behaviour and positive attitudes. This way, the children themselves model and endorse responsible actions, self-discipline and their freedom of choice based on the moral teaching of Jesus and his Church.

5. BRITISH VALUES

At St. Anne's we are committed to serving our community and local area. In so doing we reinforce British values regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

*Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos at St. Anne's. All adults listen to the views of the pupils and value their opinions. Pupils have further opportunity to have their voices heard through our School Council.

The Rule of Law:

*The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced in the classroom, as well as through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws - that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Assemblies and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong and visits from the police, fire service and local councillors help to reinforce these messages.

Individual Liberty:

*Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are keen to support charities, whether local, national or global. They are taught consideration for others in particular through our R.E. programme 'Come and See'. E-safety teaching enables them to make choices in a safe manner.

Mutual Respect:

*Our school's ethos and behaviour policy are based on Gospel values. Assemblies constantly promote respect for others and the importance of good manners. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. Pupils work collaboratively and value others' opinions.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

*As a Catholic worshipping community, pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies and class work promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

INCLUSION

At St. Anne's we recognize 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.

Written with reference to:

Come and See - Catholic Religious Education Programme

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 review : Summer 2023

Next review : Summer 2024