



St Anne's Catholic Primary School

Spiritual Development Policy

'Aspire to be more'

AIMS:

It is the aim of this 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 provides 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. Anne's show evidence of their Spiritual Development when they display:

1. KNOWLEDGE

At St. Anne'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' syllabus 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 RE 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.

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

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 review: Summer 2023

Next review: Summer 2024