



# Saint Peter's Catholic Primary School

'Christ in the centre, excellence at the heart'

## Mission Statement

To provide a	Catholic Education, embracing world faiths,
Nurturing	Happy and motivated children
Who want to	Reach to achieve high expectations
	In partnership with parents
	Supported by a committed staff and Governing Body
Who help children	To feel self-worth and know success

# **SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL EDUCATION POLICY**

Approving Committee: LGB

Approved /Adopted Date: Spring 2021

Signed: J Connolly (Chair of approving/adopting committee)

Next Review Date: Summer 2025

We recognise that the elements of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are not confined to individual subjects within the curriculum, but are part of the whole curriculum. The starting point for **spiritual development** is the ability to appreciate the beauty of the world around us and aspects of living that 'take us outside of ourselves' or transcend us in the appreciation of beauty, goodness and truth e.g. a child's **sense of awe and wonder** on the how the body works, or a piece of music or art, or of an aspect of geology or science etc.

In a Catholic school, the concept of having a free heart with which to respond to God (Ignatius) is the other aspect of spiritual development. We must seek to be instruments of God's will. To develop a 'free heart' we will give opportunities for children to **reflect on what they have seen or done, on how they react to it, and on the meaning that they give to that experience**. Anything that systematically helps children to become aware of themselves, of their feelings, reactions and needs is an important part of promoting their spiritual development and will contribute to a child's self-knowledge, which is a necessary part of a 'free heart'. It will also help towards an **understanding of how God is at work in our lives**. The school's curriculum is rich with opportunities for promoting spiritual development. Through RE and class and school Acts of Worship, **children are offered a range of contemplative and prayerful experiences** that help them reflect on the Gospel message and how this impacts on their lives. Through these we are **encouraging the children to develop a 'spiritual life' i.e. gradually accepting what has taken place in their lives, understanding its patterns and all that these teach them about themselves and, more importantly, about God's action in their lives, and the ways in which God brings to each of them the gifts of peace, deep contentment and happiness**. **Spiritual development is about discerning and responding to the unique vocation that each of us is called to by God and all it implies for our lives**.

At St. Peter's opportunities for spiritual development will be offered by:

- Giving children opportunities to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way they affect people's lives.
- Supporting and developing children's religious beliefs in ways that are personal and relevant to them.
  
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- Encouraging children to explore and develop what animates themselves and others.
- Encouraging the children to reflect (to deepen in each person a true sense of self and a capacity for wonder) and learn from reflection.
- Giving children opportunities to understand human feelings and emotions, the ways they affect people and how an understanding of them can be helpful.
  
- Developing a climate and ethos within which all children can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.
- Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of others.
- Promoting teaching styles that
  1. value children's questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns
  2. enable children to make connections between aspects of their learning
  3. encourage children to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference [e.g. asking 'why?', 'how?' and 'where?' as well as 'what?']
- monitoring the success of what is provided.

The starting point for moral development is often when children are asked to **consider moral issues in their own lives**. Helping children to make moral decisions is the crucial part of the **formation of a moral conscience**. The link between religious belief and personal and social behaviour should **reflect the Gospel values**. **Consistency by staff in the use of the school's Behaviour and Discipline policy will be a formative part of children's moral development**. Children need to understand that we are made not for ourselves but **to live with, in and through community**. This may be seen in the form of self-giving or self-denial i.e. to deny oneself

for the greater good.

At St. Peter's School opportunities for moral development are offered by:

- providing a clear moral code in the behaviour and discipline policy that is promoted consistently by all staff and through all aspects of the school
- promoting measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender etc.
- giving children opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values [e.g. personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice etc.]
- taking on the sponsorship of Charities.
- taking part in local, national and international charitable events
- developing an open and safe learning environment in which children can express their views and practise moral decision-making
- rewarding expressions of moral insights and good behaviour
- making an issue of breaches of agreed moral codes where they arise [e.g. in the press, t.v., and the internet, as well as in school
- modelling, through the quality of relationships and interactions, the principles they wish to promote [e.g. fairness, integrity, respect for people and belongings etc.]
- recognising and respecting the codes and morals of the different cultures represented in the school and wider community
- encouraging children to take responsibility for their actions [e.g. respect for property, care of the environment etc.]
- providing models of moral virtue through literature, assemblies, Gospel stories, reflection on the Sacrament of Reconciliation and acts of worship
- reinforcing the school's values based on the school's Mission Statement through displays, posters etc.
- monitoring the success of what is provided

Social development is about children learning to play and work effectively with each other and participating successfully in the community as a whole. It is about building the necessary skills and personal qualities to allow children to have successful relationships. It is also about helping children to understand society's structures and characteristics, roles and responsibilities of life as a citizen within a community and economic and political principles.

At St. Peter's School opportunities for social development are offered by:

- use of the PHSCE Matters scheme of work across the school with inbuilt progression
- identifying key values and principles on which the school and community life is based, underpinned by the school's Mission Statement
- fostering a sense of community with common inclusive values
- encouraging children to work co-operatively
- encouraging children to recognise and respect social differences and similarities
- providing positive corporate experiences such as whole school liturgies, assemblies, productions, residential etc.
- helping children develop personal qualities that are valued in civilised society
- helping children to challenge, when necessary and in appropriate ways, the values of a group or wider community

Cultural development is about children's understanding their own and other people's cultures both locally and worldwide. It is about understanding the emerging world culture of shared experiences brought about through television, travel and the internet. It is about understanding that cultures are always changing and coping with change. It is explicitly linked with valuing cultural diversity and preventing racism

At St. Peter's School opportunities for cultural development are offered by:

- providing opportunities for children to explore their own cultural assumptions and values
- studying local and world history and geography topics
- studying other major world religions i.e. Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam
- addressing discrimination and promoting racial and other forms of equality
- developing partnerships with schools in our Academy and Parish
- reinforcing the school's cultural values through displays, posters, exhibitions etc.
- auditing the quality and nature of opportunities for children to extend their cultural development across the curriculum
- monitoring the success of what is provided