

St Austin's Catholic

Primary School



Spiritual and Moral Development Policy

Autumn (1) 2022

Policy agreed by the Full Governing Body of St Austin's Primary School:

On:18th October 2022..... Signed:.....

A Hay Davis

(Chair of Governors)

To be reviewed:.....Autumn (1) 2024.....

"In our school, where everyone is special,
we will love and serve as Jesus taught"

"En nuestro colegio todos somos especiales.
Amaremos y serviremos como Jesús nos enseñó"

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SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

The promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is the 'heart' of education: it is an essential ingredient of a successful Catholic School.

The statutory requirement that schools should encourage pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development was first included in the Education Reform Act 1988. The Act began as follows:

'The Curriculum for a maintained school (must be) a balanced and broadly based curriculum which:

- a) promotes the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Mental and Physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- b) prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.'

The Act clearly recognised that there is more to life than achieving high standards in academic subjects. The task was described as:

'...the training of good human beings, purposeful and wise, themselves with a vision of what it is to be human and the kind of society that makes that possible'.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth. It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, valuing a non-material dimension to life and intimations of an enduring reality. "Spiritual" is not synonymous with 'religious'; all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development.

Spiritual development is concerned with how an individual acquires personal beliefs and values, especially on questions which are "at the heart and root of existence." It is therefore also about what a school provides – through its curriculum, through Collective Worship, through its ethos and climate – to help individuals to make sense of these questions and about what it does to help form pupils' response to life, to their various experiences and even to questions about the universe.

Spiritual development enables our pupils to cope with the difficult circumstances of life. It helps them at this time when there are no easy answers. It enables a child to become 'strong' inside.

Moral Development

Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right or wrong.

Moral development is concerned with understanding the difference between right and wrong and with committing ourselves to doing what is right because we want to do right.

People who are developing morally listen to their conscience, the inner sense informed by their upbringing, experiences, faith and religious beliefs. They are prompted to do what is right out of love for others, respect for ourselves and regard for the world in which we live.

There are opportunities for pupils to experience and learn about Spiritual and Moral development in our school.

It is an expectation at this school that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g. discussion, reflection, pupil participation and circle time.

Our aim is to develop the Spiritual and Moral feelings of the child as a whole person and to develop a respect of self and all.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- 1) Understand and appreciate that God is in their lives and loves them no matter what.
- 2) Develop a sense of awe and wonder. Enjoy the awe and wonder, celebrate it.
- 3) Develop their sense of life experience and share it.
- 4) Develop questioning about life and support each other in our life journey.
- 5) To explore other faith dimensions and how others respond to the "Spiritual dimension of life"

MORAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The children will:

- 1) Have ownership of the Mission Statement.
- 2) Be able to reflect upon decisions and actions
- 3) Celebrate freedom of choice and acknowledge the consequences of choice.
- 4) Continue to explore what is right and wrong and how actions affect others.
- 5) Will develop and understanding of the moral teaching of the church and how we support each other.

HOW

- 1) Through the teaching of 'Come and See'.
- 2) Through Collective Worship
- 3) Through Collaboration
- 4) Circle Time
- 5) Other Faith weeks
- 6) Ethos of the school and example set by staff/parents.
- 7) Assemblies, feast days, celebrations
- 8) Through play and role play.