

# **St Theresa's Catholic Primary School**



## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy**

## Our Mission

### ***“To do the little things well”***

Our mission is inspired by our patron Saint – St Theresa of Lisieux. By using and referring to our mission statement, our vision and our values on a daily basis, we can ensure that we are building a strong Christian Community where all children and adults feel valued.

## Our Vision

- To be a school that lives the Gospel values through our thoughts, words and actions; every day; in every little way;
  - To be the best;
- To educate our children to reach their full potential and to be brilliant;
  - To ignite a love of learning, curiosity and interests;
  - To inspire our children to have ambition for themselves;
- To be a school that inspires, encourages and values every individual.

## Our Core Values

To carry out our roles within the school:

- with love for the people we serve;
  - with respect for everyone;
- with pride in ourselves and our school;
- with compassion and understanding of everyone’s needs and challenges;
  - without excuses – solutions, not problems;
  - with hope, high aspirations and strong ambition;
- with kindness, happiness and gentleness – our job is a privilege;
  - with tolerance, inclusion and without prejudice;
  - with honesty, integrity and humility;
  - with forgiveness.

## **The Nature of Spiritual and Moral Development**

Here at St Theresa's we consider our children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development to be at the centre of our school ethos and the responsibility of the whole curriculum.

We strive to provide and maintain for our pupils an education that provides opportunities so that they can explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

We believe spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted through the school ethos, the climate of our school, collective worship, all curriculum areas, our school behaviour code and extra-curricular activities.

We work closely with our School Council to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. We believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

### **Aims**

- To encourage the pupils of St Theresa's to develop their own beliefs and values about life and religion.
- To promote an appreciation of alternative individual and shared beliefs.
- To develop appropriate personal and social behaviour in response to other cultures and environments.
- To develop an awareness of oneself in terms of thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities and experiences and the development of self-respect.
- To recognise and value the worth of individuals, developing a sense of community and the ability to build relationships with others.
- To promote curiosity in order to make sense of the world.
- To work with other schools to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

### **Spiritual Development**

At St Theresa's we see spiritual development as the way our children acquire personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has purpose, and basic personal and social behaviour.

We try to help our children make sense of these questions through the curriculum, Come and See lessons, Collective Worship, our school ethos and climate.

We see spiritual development as an important element of a child's education and fundamental to other areas of learning.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable our pupils to:

- sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience;
- develop their capacity for critical and independent thought;
- foster their emotional life and express their feelings;
- experience moments of stillness and reflection;
- discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences;
- form and maintain worthwhile satisfying relationships;
- reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life

### **Moral Development**

We believe that our pupils' moral development involves:

- pupils acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict;
- a concern for others and the will to do what is right;
- pupils reflecting on the consequences of their actions;
- learning how to forgive themselves and others;
- pupils developing their knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes in order for them to make responsible moral decisions and to act on them.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- tell the truth;
- keep promises;
- respect the rights and property of others;
- act with consideration towards others;
- help those less fortunate than themselves;
- take personal responsibility for their actions;
- have self-discipline

### **Social Development**

We believe social development is concerned with the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable our pupils to:

- develop an understanding of their individual and group identity;

- learn about service in the school and wider community;
- begin to understand social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged

## **Cultural Development**

We believe our pupils' cultural development involves children acquiring:

- an understanding of cultural traditions;
- and an ability to respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences

We want our pupils to acquire:

- a respect for their own culture and that of others;
- an interest in others' ways of doing things and a curiosity about differences
- knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes that they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable our pupils to:

- recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society;
- develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment;
- develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

## **Organisation**

At St Theresa's, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development takes place across all curriculum areas and within activities that provide opportunities to allow pupils to:

- talk about personal experiences and feelings;
- express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs;
- speak about difficult events;
- share thoughts and feelings with other people;
- explore relationships with friends, family and others;
- consider others needs and behaviour;
- show empathy;
- develop self-esteem and a respect for others;
- develop a sense of belonging;
- develop the skills and attributes that enable them to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally.

## **Monitoring and evaluation of Spiritual and Moral development**

We believe that the spiritual and moral development of all pupils is the responsibility of the whole school community. We aim to ensure that this is adopted by all through:

- Whole staff and departmental meetings
- RE INSET
- Governor's meetings
- Parents meetings
- Links with the parish
- Links with the wider community.

## **Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- the responsibility of involving our School Council in the development, approval, implementation and review of this policy;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

## **Role of the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team**

The Headteacher will:

- ensure all our school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with the coordinator;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

## **Role of the coordinator**

The coordinator will:

- lead the development of this policy throughout the school;
- work closely with the Headteacher;

- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- undertake risk assessments when required;
- review and monitor;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community.

### **Role of pupils**

Our pupils will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher;
- ask for further help if they do not understand;
- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- support the school Code of Conduct and guidance necessary to ensure the smooth running of the school;
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be monitored annually by the co-ordinators and will be reviewed annually by the Governing body. Parents will be consulted before any proposed changes.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St Theresa's Catholic Primary School. It will be reviewed by the Governors and Senior Leadership Team in conjunction with the staff two years from the date below.

Signed ..... Fr. P. Swanson ..... (Chair of Governors)

Date 3.9.19

