



## **St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School**

### **Spiritual and Moral Development Policy**

#### **Nurturing Hearts and Minds**

**Jesus let your light shine through, in all we think and say and do**

#### ***Definitions***

Spirituality: the searching for God in events of human life; the strive for holiness in communion with God.

Moral: because of what we believe about the purpose and meaning of life we live by principles and codes which guide our choices between right and wrong.

#### ***Our aims as a Catholic School, Keeping Christ at the Centre of All We Do:***

- To nurture the hearts and minds of our children using Gospel values.
- To offer excellent moral guidance and education through which children develop an intrinsic will to be kind to all, to care for the needy and grow in the love of Christ.
- To develop opportunities for pupils to show that their insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire and guide them in life.
- To develop an understanding of moral behaviour in line with our Mission Statement which enables pupils to practice Gospel values by allowing the light of Jesus to shine in all they think say and do.

#### ***We aim to enhance the children's spiritual development through:***

- The delivery of 'Come and See' and celebration of feasts and seasons within the Christian calendar and that of other faiths and cultures
- RE Celebrations with parents
- Quality Collective worship
- Working closely with our priests and catechists to prepare children for sacraments and further their spiritual journey
- Retreat days and opportunities for reflection on all aspects of school life
- Praising and praying through music
- Going to Mass

- Enriching the children's understanding by providing opportunities for prayer
- Enhancing the pupils' appreciation for beauty, truth, love, goodness and wonder in our delivery of the curriculum as a whole

***We aim to enhance the children's moral development by:***

- The Mission Statement, Assemblies, reinforcing positive behaviour – we will help the pupils to develop a respect for themselves and others
- The School Rules, Behaviour Policy and Anti Bullying Policy provide a clear moral code that is promoted consistently throughout the school. Restorative practice is at the core of our behaviour policy. Engendering a sense of empathy with others through Circle Time, through links with other schools in the developing world and through fund raising
- Creating an environment of trust, care and compassion
- Staff setting a good example of love and care to the pupils and fellow staff members.
- Celebrating the uniqueness of each individual and tailoring the learning and teaching environment to enable all to achieve their full potential, whilst understanding the importance of equality of opportunity for all
- Praise and reward for good behaviour and acts of kindness
- Assemblies and acts of worship which provide models of moral virtue through gospel readings, the message of which is explored with the children, stories about significant role models to inspire the children and stories with a strong moral theme
- Reinforcing the school's values through images, posters, exhibitions and classroom displays
- Seeking to help the pupils to understand how the impact of their feelings and emotions affects their behaviour and impacts on the feelings and emotions of others

***Teaching British Values***

At St Mary Magdalen's we situate British Values within the context of Gospel Values:

**Dignity of the human person**

Respecting, valuing and recognising all people as being made in the image and likeness of God.

Therefore: Democracy is explored, lived and experienced through teaching and learning, pupil voice, pupil leadership and extracurricular activities.

**The Rule of Law**

Fundamental to St Mary Magdalen's understanding of the importance of the Rule of Law, is the greatest command,

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and 'your neighbour as yourself.'" Luke 10:25-27

The Christian concept of Law is explored through RE, Gospel Values, Collective Worship and whole school activities,

### **Liberty**

Liberty is explored within the context of Christ's teaching on morality, freedom, to make the right choices and recognise that with freedom comes responsibility,

"Do to others as you would have them do to you" – Luke 6:31.

### **Tolerance of Diverse Beliefs and Values**

Tolerance of Diverse Beliefs and Values is explored through the understanding of diversity, inclusion and respect for the unique value of each person. St Mary Magdalen's seeks to educate all pupils to be critical thinkers who are seeking truth in a very complex world. We foster open minds and hearts to learn and grow together. The majority of our community is White British and Christian so we have to work hard to educate the children about our wider community and the global church.

### ***Pupils' development will be evidenced by***

- Behaviour records
- Continuous assessment within RE
- Pupil involvement in the life of the school and the wider community
- School ethos and atmosphere of care within the school
- Reports from visitors to the school and comments in the visitors' book
- Inspection and monitoring visit reports
- Pupil and parent questionnaires

### ***Monitoring and evaluation***

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

Staff meetings

Senior leadership monitoring of behaviour.

RE Inset time

Governor visits

Governors' meetings

Adopted January 2020. To be reviewed Spring term 2023.

Parent/Carer meetings

Links with Community and Parish

### ***Resources***

Come and See

Journey in Love

Picture News

CAFOD

Coram –Life Education