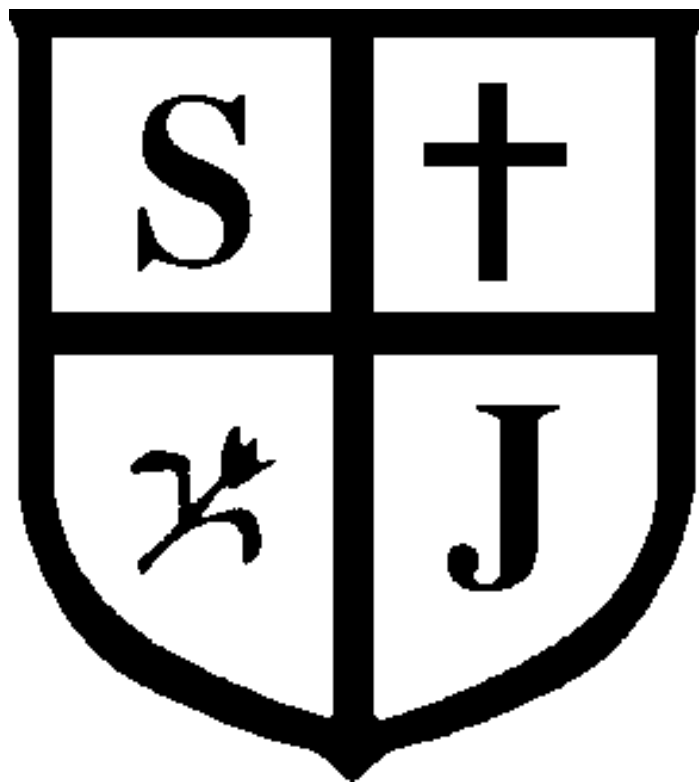


St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School

Spiritual and Moral Development Policy



“A loving Christian family, striving to achieve
excellence.”

Mission Statement:

We are “A loving Christian family, striving to achieve excellence”.

Aim:

St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School offers opportunities for our children to develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally and physically, towards their full and unique potential, in the sight of God.

Definition of Spiritual Development:

Spiritual Development relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It is associated with a dimension of life, which is not necessarily experienced through physical senses, but has much to do with feelings and emotions, and attitudes and beliefs and is, accessible to everyone.

All areas of the curriculum should contribute to pupils’ spiritual development. As a Catholic school, we place special emphasis on the specific teaching and beliefs of the Catholic faith, both within the daily life of the school and through the challenge of curriculum.

Spiritual development is a process of growth. God comes to meet us through people, places and events, and it is the individual’s response to these encounters with God that shape and determine our spiritual nature and growth. We are all made in God’s image and likeness; therefore every meeting with someone is an encounter with God and an opportunity for spiritual growth. It is this recognising and responding to God that is a key element in spiritual development.

At St Joseph the Worker we:

- provide the children with many opportunities during personal prayer, meditation and reflection, assemblies, Collective Acts of Worship and the celebration of Masses and RE lessons to encourage children to reflect upon their own faith and encourage them to respect other faiths and the religious beliefs of others;
- encourage and support our children to put Gospel message of love and forgiveness into practice in their everyday lives and put Christ at the centre.
This is also recognised in our Class Codes of Conduct.
The children are taught that forgiveness is very important and that they are given the chance to make a fresh start after they have taken the consequences of any action or wrongdoing;
- believe and promote the understanding that we are all special and unique in God’s eyes so we encourage self- worth and self- esteem by showing respect for each other;
- help the children to understand and manage their emotions and feelings and if necessary provide additional support through pastoral support and reflection;

- encourage the children to use God's given gifts and talents for the benefit of others especially those less fortunate than ourselves;
- encourage the children to care for God's creation and learn to appreciate and develop a fascination and curiosity about the world in which we live;
- provide opportunities throughout the day to come together in various groups to pray;
- support the spiritual growth of families through activities such as Stay and Pray, creative home tasks and newsletter prayers and thoughts.

Definition of Moral Development:

Moral development has at its foundation, values. Values are the principles that inform judgements as to what is morally good or bad. Attitudes to other people and their actions is the key part in our decision to how we respect these others and their actions. Values both inform and influence behavior and there for are fundamentally important both to school life and wider society.

Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behavior in relation to what is right or wrong. The word "moral" is concerned with the fundamental judgements and precepts about how we should behave and act and the reasons for such behaviour; it includes of intention, motive and attitude.

Moral Development:

Moral education is part of everyday daily life and is constantly reinforced by how we as adults act as role models for our children. The gospel values based upon "The Beatitudes," is at the heart of all that we do. Gospel values "are guarantee of peace and collaboration among citizens in the shared commitment to serving the common good," Pope John Paul II (2004).

Class Code of Conducts are developed in partnership with the pupils across the school. The code of acceptable behaviour is consistently adhered to and implemented. A whole school, consistent approach to behaviour is very important. Our children need to feel that they are being treated fairly by all staff and children.

At St Joseph the Worker we:

- encourage and support positive relationship between all members of our school community. Our school mission statement reflects this;
- good behaviour is acknowledged and rewarded on a daily basis in class and at playtimes through a class system of rewards;
- expect high standards of behaviour and help the children to understand that there are consequences for their actions. We have a culture of forgiveness and consideration for others and encourage all pupils to take responsibility for their actions;
- encourage the children to take on roles of responsibility throughout the whole school to support others e.g. School Council, Change4Life or Reading Buddies;
- celebrate achievements weekly, half-termly and at end of year award events to recognise how children have enriched the school life;
- teach the children about right and wrong and to tell the truth and respect others and understand the rules within school and the wider community.

