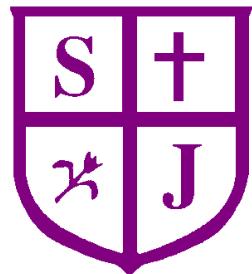


# St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School



## Spiritual & Moral Development Policy



## Our Mission

### A LOVING CHRISTIAN FAMILY STRIVING TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

Based on our Catholic faith and Gospel values we aim to:

- provide a welcoming, safe, Christian environment and to promote the best atmosphere for learning;
- provide a broad, balanced curriculum delivered in a creative, sensitive and structured way to develop each child's full potential;
- invite opportunities for the school family to develop their own spirituality and tolerance of other races, cultures, creeds;
- encourage everyone to see personal development as something which can continue throughout life;
- develop strong links between emotional wellbeing, progress and attainment;
- involve our whole school community in the physical, mental, social, moral, spiritual and cultural needs of every member of our school family by taking a proactive approach to protecting promoting emotional wellbeing and mental health;
- ensure that emotional wellbeing and mental health is the responsibility of everyone in our school.
- enable pupils to play an active and positive role in society;
- develop and foster sound, supportive relationships between all those involved in the life of the school community.

Our mission is to develop a Christ centred community, which recognises Christ's love in every person and reflects the gospel values in the life of the school.

#### **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 the physical senses, but has much to do with feelings and emotions, and attitudes and beliefs and is, accessible to everyone.

**A LOVING CHRISTIAN FAMILY STRIVING TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE**

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 Catholic Primary School:**

- we provide the children with many opportunities during personal prayer, meditation and reflection, Assemblies, Acts of Worship, Celebration of Masses and RE lessons to encourage them to respect other faiths and the religious beliefs of others.
- we encourage and support our children to put the Gospel message of love and forgiveness into practice in their everyday lives and put Christ at the centre. This is also recognised in our school Code 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 wrong-doing;
- we are all special and unique in God's eyes so we encourage self-worth and self-esteem by showing respect for each other;
- we help the children to understand and manage their emotions and feelings and if necessary provide additional support through pastoral support and reflection;
- we 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;
- we 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 judgments as to what is morally good or bad. Attitudes to other people and their actions, is the key part in our decisions to how we respect these others and their actions. Values both inform and influence behaviour and therefore are fundamentally important both to school life and wider society.

Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right or wrong. The word "moral" is concerned with fundamental judgements and precepts about how we should behave and act and the reasons for such behaviour; it includes questions 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 the children. The gospel values of, "The Beatitudes", is at the heart of all that we do. Gospel values "are a guarantee of peace and of the collaboration among all 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 Catholic Primary school:

- we encourage and support positive relationships between all members of our school community. Our school mission statement reflects this, where everyone is valued;
- we encourage good behaviour that is acknowledged and rewarded on a daily basis in class and at playtimes through class systems of rewards, which include class smileys and respect cards.
- we encourage the children to take on roles of responsibility throughout the whole school which serve to help and support others e.g. School Councillors, Eco Warriors, Collective Worship Leaders, Attendance ambassadors and Playtime buddies.
- we expect high standards of behaviour and help the children to understand that there are consequences for their actions.
- we have a culture of forgiveness, which is reflected in our Behaviour Leadership Policy. Our Class Code of Conduct is based upon consideration for others. We recognise that responsibility and discipline should be inseparable.

At St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School, we are committed to supporting the spiritual and moral development of all our pupils. Through prayer, liturgy, Religious Education, and everyday experiences in school, children are encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs and values, develop a sense of right and wrong, and grow in empathy, respect, and responsibility. Rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church, this policy ensures that pupils are guided to become thoughtful, caring, and confident individuals, able to contribute positively to our school community and to society as a whole.

