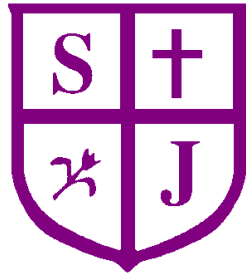


# **St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School**



## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development Policy 2025-26**



## **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**

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;

It is important to state that all members of our school community are on different stages of their faith journey; and that this journey is by no means linear. Spiritual development in our school seeks to support every individual on their spiritual quest and search of God. We also recognise that the school can make a valuable contribution to the spiritual lives of families, the parish, the wider church and the local community.

### **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).

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.

### **Definition of Social Development**

Social – emotional development includes the child’s experience, expression, and management of emotions and the ability to establish positive and rewarding relationships with others (Cohen and others 2005).

Social-emotional development lays the foundations for how we feel about ourselves and how we experience and interact with others. This foundation begins from the day we are born and continues to develop throughout our lives.

At St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School we:

- we encourage all children to take part in the wider life of our school through the many lunchtime and after school clubs, extra- curricular activities and extended school provision;
- during lessons, there are planned activities for the children to work independently, collaboratively in groups or pairs using “Learning to Learn” techniques. There are opportunities for older pupils to support younger pupils in a variety of ways, including Playground Buddies, Paired Reading and Yoga Buddies;
- we ensure that the children are regularly made aware of and are involved in online safety issues, and how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations e.g. travelling on public transport.

### **Definition of Cultural Development**

*Is the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs of a particular group of people at a particular time.*

## **Cultural Development**

Through teaching the curriculum, we ensure that there is a broad and balanced range of arts activities (art, drama, music and dance) for the children to take part in and enjoy throughout the year.

At St Joseph the Worker we:

- we seek to develop in our pupils an understanding and awareness of their culture within a multi- cultural society.
- we provide opportunities to explore their own cultural values and those of others; and celebrate the values and traditions of other cultures.
- our curriculum provides experiences of all aspects of culture including Religious Education, PSHE, modern foreign languages and the humanities.
- all areas of the curriculum can be used to promote and develop cultural awareness, including after school clubs.
- wider opportunities include arts in residence, Educational Visits, musical experiences for Yr 4 through Ukelele sessions and Choral singing.
- residential trips help our children widen their cultural experiences and friendship memories.
- we develop links with outside agencies such as dance and drama;
- we give opportunities for children to learn about life- long learning in a variety of settings e.g. Edge Hill University;
- we encourage visitors who are developing their life- long learning and pass on their experiences;
- enrich curriculum and cultural experiences through theatre and pantomime productions.

Social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of all our pupils permeates the whole curriculum and ethos of our school. It is reflected in the behaviours of individuals and our whole school community through interactions with others and the teaching and learning environment.

These experiences help our children grow in confidence, empathy, responsibility and resilience, guiding them to become thoughtful and caring individuals. At the same time, SMSC development helps pupils appreciate and respect fundamental British Values, such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for people of different faiths and beliefs. By experiencing these values in a supportive, Catholic environment, pupils are well prepared to become active, positive citizens in modern Britain, while remaining grounded in the Gospel values that shape our school community.

