



St Paschal Baylon
Catholic Primary School

Following In The Footsteps Of Christ

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

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'Following in the footsteps of Christ'

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that school provides opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

Content

All aspects of school life and the curriculum have the potential to contribute to these four kinds of development. The ethos of the school and the values which are implicit in the life and work of the school will have a powerful effect on the extent to which this potential is realised.

The foundations of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are laid at home. The school programme for promoting pupil's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is seen as complementing and supporting the work of parents and carers.

The Place of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

It is important to recognise the role of the school in promoting these four kinds of development because education is concerned with more than just giving children a body of knowledge and a range of skills. A successful and improving school will have a positive effect on how children think about themselves and the world, about their notions of right and wrong, how they relate to others and their appreciation of the richness of their own and other ways of life.

Spiritual Development

This relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It has to do with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs. It is not solely linked to a particular doctrine or faith and spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone.

Aims and Objectives for Spiritual Development

- To develop the ability to listen and be still.
- To develop the skill to use all one's senses and the ability to reflect.
- To develop the use of imagination to sense wonder and mystery in the world.
- To develop self-confidence and the ability to recognise the special nature of human relationships.

Promoting Spiritual Development

At St Paschal Baylon School we provide opportunities for pupils to develop their spirituality by reflecting on their own and others experiences, acquiring self-knowledge, thinking about their own beliefs, values and aspirations and making personal responses to questions about the purpose and meaning of life.

Spiritual development is not the same as religious development, though Religious Education and Collective Worship will play particularly important roles in our Catholic school.

Moral Development

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At St Paschal Baylon School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour.

Aims and Objectives for Moral Development (Linked to Articles 1, 2, 4, 23 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child)

- To understand the principles behind decisions and actions and to make decisions, accepting and understanding the consequences of their actions.
- To move from a taught morality to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions.
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong and to tell the truth.
- To respect the rights and properties of others.
- To exercise self-discipline.
- To develop high expectations and a positive attitude.
- To be considerate to others.

Promoting Moral Development

This school promotes moral development through a clear code of behaviour where high personal standards are expected and children are given opportunities to think about issues concerning right and wrong.

Social Development

This enables pupils to participate fully in their family, class, school, local and wider communities. There will be a balance of the positive and satisfying elements of belonging to a group along with the demands and obligations of such a membership.

Aims and Objectives for Social Development

- To relate positively to others and share emotions such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear and reverence.
- To participate fully and take responsibility in class and school and across a range of situations such as clubs, visits and church services.
- To use appropriate behaviour in a range of situations and to show care and consideration for others.
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and work cooperatively with others to become part of a caring community.
- To realise that every individual has something to offer and to use their own initiative responsibly.

Promoting Social Development

Our school promotes social development by encouraging people to relate positively to each other. We provide good role models in a range of situations and encourage our pupils to take responsibility and become involved in decision making.

Cultural Development

This aspect focuses on the need to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance of the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

Aims and Objectives of Cultural Development (Linked to Articles 8, 29, 30 and 31 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child)

- To develop a sense of belonging to the pupils own culture.
- To respond to cultural events.
- To share and respect different cultural traditions and experiences.
- To develop an appreciation of the Arts and a love for learning.

Promoting Cultural Development

We give pupils the opportunity to engage in a range of cultural activities so that they may appreciate aspects of their own and others cultural traditions.

Implementation of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

This will be achieved through opportunities in the curriculum for example: Rights Respecting Schools (particularly the global citizenship dimension); the teaching of Spanish to the Key Stage 2 pupils; additional charity and project work such as Laughter Africa and our small group international pen-pal scheme; the learning about famous scientists from all countries and the study of different religions as part of the RE programme of study.

The children take part in school council activities and there are young leaders and Baylon Buddies systems. These provide many opportunities for learning.

Adults and children, following the school Mission Statement, provide good role models at all levels. Expectation of good behaviour and respect for others is high throughout the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be monitored and reviewed in line with our policy review procedure. Subject Leaders will ensure that there are opportunities for SMSC teaching in all subjects.

The RE Leader will monitor the quality of the Collective Worship provision.

This policy is reviewed annually.

Signed: E. Martin

Position: RE Leader

Signed: K. Nolan

Position: Chair of Governors

