ST. GERARD'S
CATHOLIC
PRIMARY AND
NURSERY SCHOOL

Spiritual and Moral Development Policy 2026-27



St Gerard's Catholic Primary School

"Guided by God, St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is an inspiring and aspirational community where we learn to love, hope, dream and achieve."

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

"St Gerard's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment".

Halton Children and Young People
SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

"At St Gerard's all pupils fully embrace their Catholic faith and values. This permeates everything they do each day for their school community." – CSI Report (June 2023)

We believe that all children and staff are unique and should have opportunities to achieve their full potential to learn or to teach, and to experience a broad, varied and balanced curriculum. Our school values all members of the school community including staff, children, parents, governors, parishioners and visitors. Following Jesus' teachings, we have the courage to live and learn together, showing love and respect for each other. We nurture every aspect of the individual child; socially, emotionally, intellectually, morally and spiritually. We encourage our children to be aspirational and reach their full potential.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual Education is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, valuing a non-material dimension to life and intimations of an enduring reality. Spiritual Education is not the same as Religious Education, and all other curriculum areas may contribute to the spiritual development of pupils.

Spiritual development considers how individuals acquire personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has purpose, and the basis for personal and social behaviour questions.

It is also about what a school provides through its curriculum, prayer and liturgy, ethos, mission statement and values, to help individuals make sense of these questions. It is about what the school does to help form pupils' response to life and to various forms of experience, or even to questions about the universe.

Spiritual Development includes:

- A development of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us.
- A developing understanding of feelings and emotions which cause us to reflect and to learn.
- A developing recognition that pupils' insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire or guide them in life.

To develop spiritually, we encourage our pupils to:

- Show an awareness and understanding of their own and others' beliefs.
- Show respect for themselves and others.
- Show a sense of concern, compassion and empathy with others.
- Show an understanding of feelings and emotions and their likely impact.

- Show an increasing ability to reflect and learn from this reflection.
- Demonstrate an ability to show courage in defence of their aims, values, principles and beliefs.
- Show an appreciation of the intangible (eg: beauty, truth, love, goodness, order, as well as an order for mystery, paradox and ambiguity).

We do this by:

- Giving pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives.
- Giving pupils the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions.
- Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals.
- Promoting teaching styles which value pupils' questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- Developing an ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.

At St Gerard's, we develop the spirituality of pupils through the whole curriculum, through implicit and explicit teaching opportunities. It is promoted throughout all subjects, especially through RE, PSHE, RSE and Prayer & Liturgy.

Moral Development

Moral Education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviours in relation to what is right or wrong. As children develop a sense of morality, they become more able to explore the place of reason in ethical matters, and acquire personal value systems, together with the understanding that their behaviour and actions should derive from these beliefs and values.

At St Gerard's, we encourage young people by providing them with a moral framework within which to operate and, as they mature, by helping them to decide what they hold as right and wrong, why they do so and how they should act- that is that they should behave well.

Moral development involves the distinction between right and wrong, good and evil in a social context. It is about a growing awareness of, and a positive response to, the demands of living as an individual with others in a community.

The educational mission of the Church brings to life Christ's new commandment that you "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). This Gospel value is lived out in the daily life of school.

Moral Development includes:

- Extending pupils' knowledge and understanding of the range of accepted values in society.
- Developing pupils' skills and attitudes, such as decision-making, self-control, consideration of others, having the confidence to act in accordance with one's principles and thinking through the consequences of actions.
- Promoting, at an appropriate age level, pupils' understanding of basic moral philosophy.

When developing morally, pupils are likely to show the following characteristics:

- The ability to distinguish right from wrong, based on knowledge of the moral codes of their own and other cultures.
- The confidence to act consistently in accordance with their own principles.
- The opportunity to express their views on ethical issues and personal values.
- Opportunities to respect others' needs, interests and feelings, as well as their own.
- An ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements on moral dilemmas.
- A considerate style of life.
- A desire to explore their own and others' views.
- An understanding of the need to review and re-assess their values, codes and principles in the light of experience.

We do this by:

- Ensuring that behaviour expectations are shared by all and are promoted consistently through all aspects of the school.
- Promoting measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and other criteria.
- Giving pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values (e.g.: truth, justice, equality of opportunity, right and wrong).
- Rewarding expressions of moral insights and good behaviour.
- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions.
- Developing an open and safe learning environment in which pupils can express their views and practise moral decision-making.
- Modelling- through the quality of relationships and interactions, the principles which they wish to promote (eg: fairness, integrity, respect for persons, pupils' welfare, respect for minority interests, resolution of conflict, keeping promises and contracts).
- Recognising and respecting the codes and morals of the different cultures represented in the school and wider community.
- Providing models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts, assemblies and acts of worship.
- Reinforces the school's values through images, posters, classroom displays, screensavers, exhibitions etc.

At St Gerard's, we reinforce our schools values through all curriculum areas. They are also promoted through displays, teaching, assemblies and acts of worship. Pupils' morality is promoted and developed through the entire educative process, especially through the distinctive Catholic nature ethos, curriculum subjects and prayer and liturgy.

Policy Updated

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By: Miss L. Sanders (RE Coordinator)