

# St John Fisher Catholic Primary School

## Moral Development Policy



***“With God’s love, we are a Family; Caring, learning and Growing together”***

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Ratified by	<i>Mr. Currie (RE LEAD GOVERNER)</i>





**“With God’s Love, we are a Family; Caring, Learning and Growing Together.”**

## **Aims**

In preparing our children for their life journey, we aim, through the curriculum, to foster an awareness of living as individuals in a community, which demands an understanding of positive and personal responses to the moral values of our society. We will endeavour to foster an environment of respect for others; visible through positive relationships and sound judgments based on the Gospel values of love, truth, integrity, equality, service, faith, justice, fairness and forgiveness.

## **Objectives**

To achieve these aims, we will:

- provide opportunities for the development of moral conscience
- enable children to consider choices
- enable children to make choices
- study choices made by themselves and others and the consequent, impact upon society
- encourage tolerance when listening to others' opinions
- challenge when extreme views are expressed
- encourage independence and confidence in all aspects of life
- foster a caring community of people who think of others needs
- foster respect for all members of our community
- motivate pupils to behave in a moral way through reward and celebration systems

- provide opportunities for choice and decision making

### **Characteristics 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 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.

It is important that as a school we have clear expectations of morals and values. Each child should:

- Be knowledgeable about standards of right and wrong,
- Be encouraged to develop skills of moral reasoning,
- Be willing to conduct themselves in a responsible manner,
- Be prepared to take responsibility for their own actions.

These core values should not be limited to knowledge of right or wrong or the ability to make moral judgments but should seek to affect behaviour. The learning of how to make responsible decisions is of paramount importance. Also, that respect for life, property and the environment is of extreme importance for a stable society.

“Moral development is the process through which children learn to distinguish right from wrong, develop empathy, understand fairness, and make responsible choices that reflect ethical behaviour.”

Adapted from Laurence Kohlberg’s Theory of Moral Development, 1958

### **Role of the Curriculum in Moral Development**

There are many aspects of the curriculum, which enable opportunities for moral development. R.E., liturgy and collective worship have a strong role in encouraging moral development through discussion and reflection upon aspect of personal life, dilemmas and choices to make. Children are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Y4; every child meets the reconciliation topic through Come and See at their own level of development every Summer Term.

Teaching and living out the mission statement, is high profile at St John Fisher. The school provides an ethos which encourages personal growth following Gospel values. By providing a secure community, children will develop a variety of relationships during their time with us. We encourage the development of a positive moral base in our dealings with everyone and the way in which we treat the world around us. We model fairness and equality in every aspect of school life.

In addition, we help pupils to compromise rather than stubbornly seeing the world from their sole perspective. We recognise that promoting self-esteem is very important. We take every opportunity to involve the children in the decision making process, through School council, JRSO, Minnie Vinnies, Eco Club, Reading buddies and Subject Ambassadors . Children are valued as individuals. Children’s work is shared and celebrated with others either within lessons, during assembly or in display.

Children are encouraged to consider school, local, national and international issues when appropriate. Children are expected to welcome all visitors and display good manners, when in school, and out of school. They are led into feelings of empathy and understanding eg. CAFOD, Angel Star Fish Charity, local foodbanks and Mary's Meals.

The curriculum provided for all children offers many opportunities to develop morally in terms of conscience, making choices and the impact of these choices. It offers opportunities to reflect upon the choices made by others and the results and impact of these policies. Some examples might include:

<b>Literacy:</b>	letter writing, questions arising from the study of literature, discussing issues, persuasion, reasoning, arguments and point of view, conscience alley, emotion graphs.
<b>Science/Geography:</b>	environmental issues, health questions, personal safety
<b>History:</b>	conflict, success, failure, cause and effect, bias
<b>PSHE</b>	choices, difference, acceptance, tolerance, conscience, multi traditional/faith community. Making decision, circle time.
<b>I.T.</b>	E-safety, responsible use of technology.

### **Ways we encourage Moral Development at St John Fisher:**

We provide a clear moral code as a basis for behaviour which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school.

We promote measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and other criteria.

We give pupils opportunities, across the curriculum, to explore and develop moral concepts and values – for example, personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice, equality, right and wrong.

We provide an open and safe learning environment in which pupils can express their views and practice moral decision making.

Children are encouraged from an early age to be independent, and to make judgments and choices based on an increasing awareness of themselves as a member of a group. Children are challenged to explain decisions and judgements. They are given positive and valuable feedback following our marking policy.

We reward expressions of moral insight and good behaviour. We deal with breaches of agreed moral codes where they arise, for example, in the press, on television and the internet as well as school.

By modelling, through the quality of relationships and interactions, the Christian principles which we wish to promote – for example, fairness, integrity, respect for everyone, pupil welfare, resolution of conflict.

Through recognising and respecting the codes and morals of the different cultures represented in the school and wider community.

By encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions; for example, respect for property, care of the environment and developing codes of behaviour.

Through reinforcing, the school's values through the Mission Statement, images, posters and classroom displays.

People who are developing morally listen to their conscience, the inner sense, informed by their upbringing, experiences and faith or religious beliefs that prompts them to do what is right out of love for others, respect for themselves and regard for the world in which they live

### **Prayer and Liturgy**

There are a variety of opportunities for Prayer and Liturgy at St John Fisher. Twice a week there are whole key stage worship. This is led by the staff and pupils. The theme of the Collective Worship relates to the Gospel of the week, PSHE and the Liturgical year and the current topic being covered in the Come and See. Prayer is an important part of our day at St John Fisher and our children are encouraged to be reverent and respectful.

### **Links between Moral Development and School Policies/Systems**

Policies:	SEND Equality Safeguarding Anti bullying Behaviour RSHE
Code of Conduct:	School rules written by the children are displayed around the school. There is a list of consequences for serious misconduct written in the code of conduct. Children are encouraged to think about their behaviour in terms of the effect upon their friends.
Class rules:	Children annually (within their own classroom) decide upon the rules to be followed, which will ensure a happy, safe environment for all.

**Schools Council:** Elected members from each year group form the school's council, which discusses and makes decisions on behalf of the other children.

**Rewards:** Through class dojos, weekly Smile and Superstar awards, good behaviour and acts of citizenship are celebrated. These are celebrated in the weekly newsletter. Verbal feedback is very important and encouraged between children as well as between adult and child. Stickers etc are given by teachers when appropriate. These

