

St. Bede's Catholic Infant School
Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Agreed By Staff:	Autumn 2026	
Approved By Governors:	Autumn 2026	
Review Date:	Autumn 2027	
Signed Chair of Governors	S Howard	Date 8.9.26

Rationale

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of our children is at the heart of our Mission Statement. St Bede's provides a caring, Catholic education for all our children. This policy underpins the principles and opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development based on the Gospel values which permeate all aspects of school life, so that the children will:

"Journey together so that all might have life; life in all its fullness". John 10:10

MISSION STATEMENT

At St. Bede's Catholic Infant School it is the mission of the whole school community to nurture a loving, safe, caring, supportive, quality environment in which the individual has the opportunity to develop intellectually, spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

School Ethos

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of our children is promoted through the Catholic ethos of this school. We are a celebrating community where the uniqueness of each individual is valued in an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

School Worship

St Bede's is a celebrating community and daily Collective Worship (Prayer and Liturgy including Celebrations of the Word) helps to develop the children Spiritually, Morally, Socially and Culturally. Acts of worship are inclusive and:

- Have Christ at the heart
- Provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God and reflect upon Gospel values
- Develop personal beliefs
- Recognise/appreciate the uniqueness of the individual
- Reinforce positive attitudes
- Promote a common ethos and shared values
- Develop community spirit
- Respect the diversity of beliefs and commitment

The Prayer and Liturgy Policy (regarding Collective Worship) in St Bede's outlines the acts of Collective Worship which take place in school.

Religious Education

St Bede's is a Catholic School we follow the RED 'To know You more clearly' curriculum across the whole school. The Branches in 'To know You more clearly', ensure that the children are provided with many opportunities to develop Spiritually, Morally, Socially and Culturally. For further information, see the Religious Education Policy.

Cross-curricular Links

At St Bede's opportunities for the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of our children are provided across the curriculum with all members of staff working together for the good of our children. We believe that a "thread runs through our school life bringing hope, compassion, thankfulness, courage, peace and a sense of purpose and meaning to everyday life." (Values and Visions, 1995 pxiii)

This thread drives us to seek and stay true to values which are at the heart of the gospel message of Christ, "one knows immediately this place is different; there is a hum of activity; people are glad to be there; there is a sense of purpose and well being; people are relating to one another with confidence and respect; there is an openness, and aliveness and the wider world is there"

(ibid, pxv)

Opportunities For Spiritual Development

We aim to promote the Spiritual Development of our children by providing them with the opportunity to: -

- acquire insights into their personal existence
- make sense of their life experience
- develop a sense of wonder, awe, reverence, imagination
- develop the human capacity to go beyond physical, tangible reality
- develop a sense of the presence of God in their lives
- reflect on and respond to this presence
- become familiar with the life, words and actions of Jesus.
- become familiar with the life, words and actions of the saints and significant Christians
- hear of how people of other faiths respond to the spiritual dimension of life
- understanding and evaluating a range of possible responses and interpretations

We achieve these by:

- revealing gospel values which underpins everything that we believe to be important
- fostering quality relationships within our school
- reflecting on and responding to God in their lives
- recognising and valuing the worth of each individual
- acquiring personal beliefs, especially about religion, through the 'To know You more clearly' curriculum
- enabling the children to express thoughts and feelings, for example, through art, music, dance and drama
- experiencing positive and relaxed silence
- promoting sensitivity
- questioning at deeper levels
- allowing children to grapple with something beyond their experience and grasp
- reflecting upon complex questions where there are no easy answers
- building confidence in the children's ability to persevere with difficult questions/tasks/ problems

Opportunities For Moral Development

We aim to promote the Moral Development of our children by providing them with: -

- a secure community in which the Gospel spirit of freedom, justice and love permeates every aspect of its life and work
- opportunities to develop a personal sense of morality in relation to self, others, local, national and world issues
- opportunities to decide what they hold as right and wrong, why they do so, and how they should act
- opportunities to consider questions of intention, motives and attitudes

We achieve these by:

- discussing the moral teaching of the Catholic Church in language and levels appropriate to the children's age and stage of development
- helping children to understand complex and human relationships, conflict, tension, love, hate, justice, fairness, bullying, support
- discussing dilemmas, sharing scarce resources, recycling, taking care of the environment
- discussing supporting/serving others and commitment to the common good e.g helping in practical ways, for example, Trussell Trust Foodbank collections, CAFOD, FAIRTRADE
- considering decisions, choices, intentions and attitudes
- offering stories or personal histories which challenge accepted values or the status quo

Opportunities for Social Development

We aim to promote the Social Development of our children by providing them with opportunities to recognise the purpose and value of being:-

Independent
Confident
Empathic
Respectful
Truthful
Compassionate
Responsible
Thoughtful
Amiable
Co- operative
Perseverance

We achieve this by:

- delivering PSHCE (incorporating RSHE) across the curriculum including

~Health Education, which incorporates personal hygiene, healthy life styles, physical well being, health issues

~ relationships and sex education (RSE - Journey in Love)

~valuing others viewpoints

- expecting children to follow the behaviour policy, understanding rules and consequences
- providing contexts in which the children can work individually and as a member of a group/team/class/school
- opportunities to develop good communication skills
- expecting the children to work hard and do their best

Opportunities For Cultural Development

We aim to promote the Cultural Development of our children by providing them with opportunities to: -

- understand and respect their own culture and British Values
- understand and respect other cultures and traditions

We achieve this by:

- providing opportunities across the curriculum to appreciate and value their own and other cultures including music, art, dance and drama
- providing a range of literature appropriate to age and stage of development
- using ICT to support research, knowledge and understanding
- displaying range of images
- visiting museums, art galleries, theatres, concerts, places of worship and a variety of places of interest with the school
- inviting visitors into the school from a range of cultures
- developing links with schools from other countries

Monitoring

Monitoring is undertaken by considering:

- Observations including lessons, Collective Worship – Prayer and Liturgy and Celebrations of the Word, children at work and play and learning walks
- Schemes of work
- Teachers' planning
- Discussion with staff
- Discussion with pupils/pupil voice
- Discussion with parents/carers

Assessment

Assessment of the child's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is undertaken by staff in their ongoing observations and discussions and through the children's work in its many forms.

This policy is supported by other policies including RE, Prayer and Liturgy (Collective Worship), Promoting Cultural Diversity and Anti-Racist Practices, Promoting Personal and Social Development and those which safeguard and promote the welfare of children in this school.