



*In the Light of Jesus
we Learn to Shine*

Spiritual Development Policy

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we believe Spirituality extends far beyond the curriculum and encompasses the whole ethos of our school. In the words of our Mission Statement, 'In the Light of Jesus we Learn to Shine' we recognise our individuality and reflect our unity in Jesus Christ.

"...And only where God is seen does life truly begin. Only when we meet the living God in Christ do we know what life is. We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is a result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary. There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him..."

Pope Benedict XVI, Homily of His Holiness, Sunday 24 April 2005

"...And so the name came to my Heart, Francis of Assisi. For me he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and safeguards Creation. He is the man who gives us this spirit of peace Let us protect with love all that God has given us..."

Pope Francis, Homily of His Holiness, Tuesday 19 March 2013

We believe that each of us has a divine origin and destiny and that we are all equal and are sustained by links with one another. We believe that God reveals himself to each of us, through the call of Baptism. Together with parents we accept the responsibility to nourish our children and encourage their growth. The seed of faith sown at Baptism is nurtured and celebrated through the sharing of the Gospel, through individual and collective prayer and through communion with each other.

We are aware that each one of us is on a faith journey, with differing needs and we are able to make differing contributions. We work closely with the home and the Parish and we believe we complement one another spiritually as a family.

Aims:

- That our teaching and learning is founded on and reflects the words of Jesus;
- That the values of the Gospel underpin all areas of our curriculum, our ethos, worship and practice of our faith.

Strategies: *These strategies are linked to our Prayer and Liturgy policy*

- We provide opportunities for our pupils to develop their spirituality both through the curriculum, and occasions for collective and individual reflective prayer.
- The First Friday of every month Year 2 join the local parish community at St. Joseph's Church for mass and KS2 pupils attend parish masses.
- The Parish Priest, Deacon and local clergy visit the school to pray and reflect with the children.
- Our teaching and learning is founded on and reflects the words of Jesus. The values of the Gospel underpin all areas of our curriculum, our ethos, worship and practice of our faith. We lead the children to know that they journey to God as members of the Church of Jesus Christ to which they belong and to awaken their experience of this in their family, their school and their Parish communities.

- We place strong emphasis on the teachings of Christ, not only in R.E lessons, but also as a living tradition witnessed to by all staff and children, growing together and showing respect and concern for one another.
- We shape our school environment in order to heighten our awareness of God's world. Each teaching area has a clear sign of the presence of Christ among us.
- We encourage children and adults to share their reflections on experiences and to listen to one another so that we are living, growing and learning together as we progress along our faith journey. The Prayer Bags have been a particular success since their launch in 2015/16.
- We encourage each child to grow in self-esteem, to develop their God given talents and abilities and to foster a positive attitude to life.
- We actively seek to involve the local clergy of the Parish in the children's celebrations.
- Collective worship takes place throughout the school on a daily basis in either whole school or classroom context. Each day beginning with prayer in the classroom, prayers are also said before/after lunch and at the end of the school day.
- We gather together as a whole school community during the week for assembly on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, led by the Head teacher, SLT member of staff or class group.
- Teaching staff attend a morning briefing each week that incorporates a time for prayer and reflection.
- All staff are invited to termly Diocesan INSET and are also given the opportunity to attend relevant NORES courses to help develop their spirituality.
- During Advent & Lent staff prepare and lead weekly liturgies for colleagues before the start of the school day.
- Family workers lead weekly liturgies for parents during Advent & Lent.

We come together as a caring community to reflect, celebrate, praise, worship, thank and recognise God in our lives on many occasions. These include:

- Celebration of Saints and Holy Days, including class Saints;
- Christmas and Easter;
- Daily Collective Worship;
- Mother's Day Assembly;
- Father's Day Assembly;
- Beginning and end of school year, including governors and parents;
- Prayer and reflective sessions for staff and governors.
- Remembrance on 11 November

Future Development

- To continue to identify appropriate training within the continuing professional development program to enable staff to develop their own and the children's personal relationship with God.
- To explore further how a range of activities can be developed across the whole curriculum to support children in responding to the spiritual opportunities presented in the life of the school.

Monitoring: The Head teacher and RE Subject Leader(s) will report termly to the Governors on priorities relating to this policy.