



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Policy for Moral Development

Date: November 2023

Mission
Together we love, learn, follow Jesus
Vision
At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, through an open and generous heart, we learn together as a family in faith, following the gospel values of love.
Values
Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect

Aims

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we aim to put into practise Gospel values through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. We value love, faith and friendship as together we love, learn and follow Jesus.

We will teach the children to recognise what is right and wrong as well as giving them the tools to make good, informed choices. We will help them to understand that their behaviour should reflect the teachings of Christ and in doing so we will be giving them the knowledge and confidence to be able to behave well.

Objectives

- To help our children to like and respect themselves, and everybody in the school community, enabling them to work cooperatively, and approach the wider world with an open mind.
- To enable each child to explore questions about life, dignity and purpose within a Christian framework.
- To introduce our children to the beliefs of people of other faiths, so that we can promote understanding and avoid prejudice.
- To help our children make informed choices by offering information, advice and support with regard to Personal Relationships and Health and Safety.
- To encourage our children to put their own ideas into words, and to listen with tolerance and respect to other peoples' views.
- To help our children to understand that they can make a difference to local and national issues and initiatives: eg: fund raising, writing letters of concern, school council etc.

Methods

Through the teaching of Come and See, Assemblies, Church Masses and Services, Collective Worship and PHSE, the children will learn how to put into practice the values we hold strong. The children and staff are aware of how to live out the school's mission statement in their daily lives.

From the start of their education, our children are taught to respect others and they are encouraged to make decisions about what is right and wrong. This is inherent in all of school life. Through Collective Worship and the teaching of 'Come and See', the children will be given opportunities to discuss moral issues pertaining to their own life and the wider world.

Opportunities for moral development will also be provided during the teaching of PHSE where the children learn about how to deal with and find solutions to moral problems and issues.

At St. Joseph's we have in place a positive reward system which encourages:

- good behaviour
- respect for others
- taking care of each other
- taking care of the environment
- reconciliation and restorative justice



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We also have an active School Council and Mini Vinnies which encourages responsibility, cohesion and working together for the good of all.

According to age and ability the children are expected to develop a sense of harmony and they are taught to be sensitive to the needs of others. They are encouraged to express regret for inappropriate behaviour and actions and to admit mistakes. Adults also demonstrate admittance of mistakes, saying sorry and doing something positive to make up for their actions. This helps the children learn from positive role models.

During their time in Year 4, the children prepare for their First Reconciliation and Eucharist. This is done through the 'With You Always' programme of family catechist running in the parish. Through this sacramental preparation, the children come to know Jesus in a very special way and learn how to relate their own lives to that of Christ, bringing meaning to their personal interactions and life choices. They learn about forgiveness, compassion for others, empathy, tolerance, self-worth, respect and understanding.

RSE

As part of our PHSE and RSE we teach, throughout the year, where appropriate with our curriculum, the RSE teachings. Each class from Reception to Year 6 cover the 'Learning to Love' agreed syllabus – Journey in Love, as recommended by Liverpool Archdiocese. This resource has as its foundational premise the belief that we are made in the image and likeness of God and, as a consequence, gender and sexuality are God's gift, reflect God's beauty and share in the divine creativity. The programme begins at a very basic level for the children focused on friendships and love of self and family members to puberty and on to intimate relationships of love usually ending in marriage. The delivery of this programme is always carried out in a sensitive manner to ensure that every family circumstance is recognised and respected.

At all times, the staff at St. Joseph's endeavour to provide our children with a safe environment in which they can learn and flourish.

Resources

- Come and See syllabus
 - Church's Story 1, 2, 3.
 - God's Story 1, 2, 3
 - Journey in Love. With You Always
 - PSHE Association programme of study
- Picture News Resources