

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School



Spirituality Policy

'With Christ as our guide, we Love, Aspire and Serve'

Date Agreed	15th July 2026
Signed	<i>J McNamee</i>
Next Review	

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

***'With Christ as our guide,
we Love, Aspire and Serve'.***

Mission Aim 1 (Christ Centered Aim):

*Together in Christ's family, we are loving, forgiving and
compassionate to everyone.*

Mission Aim 2 (Community Centered Aim):

Together, we are welcoming and inclusive - showing respect to all.

Mission Aim 3 (Education Centered Aim):

*Together, we are ambitious and determined learners, providing an
environment where everyone can flourish.*

Definition

Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth. It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, valuing a non-material dimension to life and intimations of an enduring reality. "Spiritual" is not synonymous with "religious"; all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development.

Spiritual development, then, is concerned with how an individual acquires personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has purpose, and the basis for personal and social behaviour questions which are "at the heart and root of existence". It is therefore also about what a school provides – through its curriculum, through Collective Worship, through its ethos and climate – to help individuals to make sense of these questions, and about what it does to form pupils' response to life and to various forms of experience, or even to questions about the universe.

The educational mission of the Church is rooted in Christ's mission "that all may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10). This involves the ongoing development of the entire potential of each individual made in the image and likeness of God and finding fulfilment in God alone.

Ofsted have provided a working definition of spiritual development. They identify three principal elements.

Spiritual development involves:

- the development of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us. For many pupils, these will have a significant religious belief;
- a development understanding of feelings and emotions which causes us to reflect and to learn;
- for all pupils, a developing recognition that their insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire or guide them in life.

At St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School, spiritual development is at the heart of all we do. Spiritual development pervades all subject areas and the daily life of the school.

Pupils who are developing spiritually are likely to be developing some or all of the following characteristics:

- a set of values, principles and beliefs, which may or may not be religious, which inform their perspective on life and their patterns of behaviour
- an awareness and understanding of their own and others' beliefs
- a respect for themselves and for others
- a sense of empathy with others, concern and compassion
- an increasing ability to reflect and learn from this reflection
- an ability to show courage in defence of their aims, values, principles and beliefs
- a readiness to challenge all that would constrain the human spirit, for example, poverty of aspiration, lack of self-confidence and belief, moral neutrality or indifference, force,

fanaticism, aggression, greed, injustice, narrowness of vision, self-interest, sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination

- an appreciation of the intangible – for example, beauty, truth, love, goodness, order, as well as for mystery, paradox and ambiguity
- a respect for insight as well as knowledge and reason
- an expressive and/or creative impulse
- an ability to think in terms of the 'whole' – for example, concepts such as harmony, interdependence, scale, perspective
- an understanding of feelings and emotions and their likely impact

To encourage pupils' spiritual development at St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School:

- Pupils are given the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives.
- Pupils who already have religious beliefs, are supported to develop these beliefs in ways which are personal and relevant to them.
- Pupils are encouraged to explore what animates themselves and others.
- Pupils are encouraged to reflect and learn from reflection.
- Pupils are given opportunities to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they affect people and how an understanding of them can be helpful.
- We develop a climate and ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.
- We accommodate difference and respect the integrity of individuals.
- We use teaching styles which value pupil's questions and give the space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- Learning enables pupils to make connections between aspects of their learning, and it encourages pupils to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference.
- We monitor the success of provision in simple, pragmatic ways.

Pupils' spirituality is promoted and developed through the entire educative process.

The Distinctive Nature of our School

At St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School, we take our inspiration from our patron saints. St Peter, the rock on whom Christ built his Church, reminds us that our faith is our foundation. St Paul, who carried the Good News to all nations, reminds us that faith is meant to be lived and shared. Together, they shape who we are: a community rooted firmly in Christ and sent out to love and serve others. We believe every child is made in the image and likeness of God and is uniquely loved by Him. Spiritual development therefore lies at the heart of everything we do, not only in our RE lessons and acts of worship.

Our Catholic ethos encourages positive, respectful relationships between all members of our school community: pupils, staff, families, governors and parish. We work to build a culture of kindness, forgiveness and mutual care, where each person feels valued and knows they belong to our school family.

Our close links with our parish are central to our spiritual life. Visits to church, celebrating Mass together, daily prayer and liturgical celebrations throughout the Church's year give children regular opportunities to encounter God and grow in faith. Preparation for the Sacraments of

Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, in partnership with the parish and families, supports each child's personal spiritual journey.

We also nurture spiritual development beyond formal worship. We give children time for stillness and reflection, and we encourage them to ask the big questions of life. Through our outdoor play and learning, they are invited to experience awe and wonder at God's creation. We also help them recognise their responsibility to care for it and for one another.

Curriculum

The opportunity for promoting spiritual development arises in a wide range of curriculum areas. Religious Education is seen as the prime curriculum opportunity for promoting spiritual development.

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School recognises that spiritual development can also be encouraged through PSHE, Literacy, Science and the wider curriculum. Spiritual development filters into all curriculum areas and should not be left solely to Religious Education.

Collective Worship

There are a variety of opportunities for Collective Worship throughout the school week. Whole-school, key-stage, class and pupil-led worship enable children to pray, reflect and celebrate together. Prayer is an important part of our day, and children are encouraged to be reverent and respectful.

Resources

There is a wide variety of resources available to provide ideas and assistance with spiritual development including books, Bibles, posters, music, CAFOD resources and Catholic Social Teaching materials.

The RE Subject Leader and Headteacher are available to support staff.

Development

A copy of this policy is available for all staff to read and will be reviewed within the cycle of policy reviews for the school. Feedback will be invited from staff and governors. The impact of this policy will be evident in the way in which our children develop a growing awareness of and positive response to the demands of living in today's world.