

Ratified July 2026

Review July 2028

Version 7

St Mary and St John Catholic Primary School

Spiritual Development Policy



'In the Light of Jesus we Learn to Shine'.

Reviewed and Ratified on: July 2026

Signed (Chair of Governors): *Angela Whitney*

Spiritual Development

The gospel values and the ethos of the school are lived out by all stakeholders through our mission statement:

'In the Light of Jesus, we learn to Shine'.

Pupils need to be supported in their spiritual development and need to understand how to develop their personal beliefs and values, what being spiritual involves and how they can develop this element of their being. We promote this in school through the RE, RSHE and holistic curriculum, through our worship, assemblies and through the experience of Catholic life that we share with all our stakeholders.

Aims

To enable the children:

- To listen and be still and to sense the intangible, the spiritual through beauty, love, mystery and life.
- To show respect and empathy to others
- To reflect and learn from reflection
- To give our pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs and the impact they may have on their own and other peoples' lives
- To sense awe, wonder and mystery in the world
- To sense the special nature of human relationships
- To express themselves freely and imaginatively and without judgement.

Objectives

To enable the children to develop:

- the skill of being mentally still, concentrating on the present moment
- the ability to use all one's senses, engage their imaginations and feelings
- a capacity for quiet reflection during a lesson or assembly
- individual self-confidence, self-esteem, dignity in expressing inner thoughts in a variety of ways e.g. song, dance, drama, writing and music
- contemplation and appreciation for the beauty of life and the natural world
- Awareness beyond, deeper meaning and to question ponder and consider.

Provision for Spiritual Development

- Staff provide a role model for the children by sharing in the joy of discovery and in the mystery of creation.
- As individuals, they may share something of their own spirituality with both colleagues and pupils.
- Provide opportunities for prayer/reflection/silence, and the exploration of inner space.

- Provide provision through the delivery of the RE and RSHE curriculum and cross-curricular opportunity eg.
- **Language/English** - poetry, creative writing and the way they listen and respect the view and opinions of others
- **Maths** - Shape, pattern and symmetry in the natural world
- **Science** - the miracle of life, growth, development, death and renewal (reflecting the liturgical year), forces, energy, power and light
- **Music** - listening and appreciating a wide variety of music and responding to it emotionally, music to reflect moods and evoke memories, song and in providing opportunities to attend wider community events such as CAFOD Advent service.
- **Art and Technology** - a method of exploring and alleviating feelings, putting the child in touch with the environment (textures, tones etc.)
- **P.E.** - the child looks at him/herself in time and space through dance and sport
- **Geography/History** - appreciating the wonders of the world, how we are custodians of this world and are therefore responsible for its care. Famous people as role models, art in history, inspirational stories of bravery, courage, kindness etc.

Policy review

- The policy will be reviewed annually and in line with the school's review cycle.