St. Joseph's

Catholic Primary School

Moral Development Policy

September 2025

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Moral Development Policy

Our Mission Statement

St. Joseph's family
Learn together
With love and faith in Jesus,
To become the people
God calls us to be.
'We Work, We Care, We Pray, We Share

We aim to do this by:

Developing the children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and, where appropriate, other religious traditions, by following the Gospel values and providing opportunities for prayer, worship and spiritual growth.

Ensure children feel cared for and care for each other so that everyone who enters our community feels welcome to engage in examination of and reflection upon their own life stance, to deepen their personal faith commitment and to respect that of others. We will strive for friendliness not loneliness to work together as one body. (1 Corinthians12: 27-28)

Providing a broad, well-balanced curriculum in a stimulating and fun learning environment where we recognise the unique qualities in every child and encourage freedom of expression.

Giving children a happy, memorable time at our school, where we promote the child's innate capacity for wonder, awe, reverence and imagination to shine in all that they do and for everyone to see – "…so that those who come in can see the light." (Luke 8: 16-17)

Introduction

Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong. The word 'moral' is concerned with fundamental judgements about how we should behave or act and our reasons for such behaviour. It is of the greatest importance that children develop a clear set of rules of conduct, which draw on the basic moral values and which can be applied to everyday situations. These values of forgiveness, freedom, tolerance, respect and relationships are to be lived out in the daily life of the school by the whole school community.

Aims

In St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we aim to encourage pupils' moral development at the level of each individual child's understanding in the following ways: -

- As they develop a sense of morality, pupils should become more adept at exploring reason in both daily occurrences and in ethical matters.
- To begin to develop pupils who are more autonomous moral agents.
- Pupils should begin to acquire value systems, which are personal rather than simply transmitted by others.
- Pupils should begin to develop beliefs and values.

School values include:

- Telling the truth.
- Respecting the rights and property of others.
- Acting with consideration towards others.
- Helping those less fortunate and weaker than ourselves.
- Taking personal responsibility for one's actions.
- Self-discipline.

School values are rooted in our 'Mission Statement'…

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School values reject:

- Bullying.
- Cheating.
- Deceit and dishonesty.
- Cruelty.
- Irresponsibility.

Through Moral Education, we develop, at the level of the children's understanding, knowledge of:

- How communities are organised and the importance of rules and laws.
- How communities reconcile the needs of individuals with those of society.
- Similarities and differences between individuals, groups and communities.
- Fairness, justice and moral responsibility.

Cross-curricular Skills

- Arguing a case clearly and concisely.
- Making choices in the light of available evidence.
- Working with others.

Attitudes

- Independence of thought on social and moral issues.
- Respect for rules and the processes of law and right of others.
- Respect for different ways of life, beliefs, opinions and ideas.
- A willingness to respect rational argument and non-violent ways of resolving conflict.
- A constructive interest in community affairs.
- An active concern for human rights.
- An appreciation of the importance of democratic decision-making.

Moral Codes and Values – Pupils should be helped at their own level to:

- Develop a personal moral code and explore values and beliefs.
- Develop a concern for others.
- Develop self-respect and respect values such as hard work, honesty and truthfulness.

Pupils should be given opportunities to:

- Compare values and beliefs held by themselves and others.
- Examine evidence, opinions and form conclusions.
- Discuss differences and resolve conflicts.
- Discuss and consider solutions to personal, social and moral dilemmas.
- Appreciate that the distinction between right and wrong is not always straightforward.

School Rules

At the beginning of each year, every class will write a set of 'Promises' that they will all agree to and sign.. These will be written by the children, after they have discussed, as a class, what are the most important ways to behave and learn. These will be signed by each class member and referred to if a pupil chooses not to follow these rules.

The governing body and staff will review this policy annually and any amendments, which may be deemed to be necessary, will be made accordingly. (See also Behaviour Policy).

REVIEW DATE: SEPTEMBER 2026