
OUR LADY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
STATEMENT

Our Mission Statement

We are a Catholic school. One family, living and learning together in faith.

Our mission is to develop a Christ centered community, which recognises Christ's love in every person and reflects the gospel values in the life of the school.

Aim

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School offers opportunities for our children to develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally and physically, towards their full and unique potential, in the sight of God.

Definition of Spiritual development

Spiritual Development relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It is associated with a dimension of life, which is not necessarily experienced through the physical senses, but has much to do with feelings and emotions, and attitudes and beliefs and is, accessible to everyone.

All areas of the curriculum should contribute to pupils' spiritual development. As a Catholic school, we place special emphasis on the specific teaching and beliefs of the Catholic faith, both within the daily life of the school and through the challenge curriculum.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is a process of growth. God comes to meet us through people, places and events, and it is the individual's response to these encounters with God that shape and determine our spiritual nature and growth. We are all made in God's image and likeness; therefore every meeting with someone is an encounter with God and an opportunity for spiritual growth. It is this recognising and responding to God that is a key element in spiritual development.

At Our Lady Immaculate:

- We provide the children with many opportunities during personal prayer, meditation and reflection, Assemblies, Collective Acts of Worship, Celebration of Masses and RE lessons to encourage children to reflect upon their own faith and encourage them to respect other faiths and the religious beliefs of others.
- We encourage and support our children to put the Gospel message of love and forgiveness into practice in their everyday lives and put Christ at the centre. This is also recognised in our School Code of Conduct, which has at its heart the dimensions of "Reflect, Repair and Rebuild." The children are taught that forgiveness is very

important and that they are given the chance to make a fresh start after they have taken the consequences of any action or wrong-doing.

- We are all special and unique in God's eyes so we encourage self-worth and self-esteem by showing respect for each other.
- We help the children to understand and manage their emotions and feelings and if necessary provide additional support through pastoral support and reflection.
- We encourage and support the children to use their God given gifts and talents for the benefit of others especially those less fortunate than ourselves.
- We encourage the children to care for God's creation and learn to appreciate and develop a fascination and curiosity about the world in which we live.
- We provide opportunities throughout the day to come together in various groups to pray.
- We provide a retreat for the children in Year 6, which encourages them to reflect upon their times in our school and upon the teaching of the Beatitudes as they move towards the next phase of their lives. The retreat is followed by a short service to which their parents are invited to attend, in celebrating our partnership of being, one family living and learning together in faith.

It is important to state that all members of our school community are on different stages of their faith journey; and that this journey is by no means linear. Spiritual development in our school seeks to support every individual on their spiritual quest and search of God. We also recognise that the school can make a valuable contribution to the spiritual lives of families, the parish, the wider church and the local community.

Definition of Moral Development

Moral development has at its foundation, values. Values are the principles that inform judgements as to what is morally good or bad. Attitudes to other people and their actions, is the key part in our decisions to how we respect these others and their actions. Values both inform and influence behaviour and therefore are fundamentally important both to school life and wider society.

Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right or wrong. The word 'moral' is concerned with fundamental judgements and precepts about how we should behave and act and the reasons for such behaviour; it includes questions of intention, motive and attitude.

Moral Development

Moral education is part of our every-day daily life and is constantly reinforced by how we as adults act as role models for the children.

The gospel values of, "The Beatitudes", is at the heart of all that we do.

Gospel values "are a guarantee of peace and of the collaboration among all citizens in the shared commitment to serving the common good." Pope John Paul II (2004)

Our School Code of Conduct was developed over a long period of time in partnership with all pupils from across the school. This code of acceptable behaviour is consistently adhered to and implemented. A whole school, consistent approach to behaviour is very important. Our children need to feel at all times they are being treated fairly by all staff members.

At Our Lady Immaculate:

- We encourage and support positive relationships between all members of our school community. Our school mission statement reflects this; one family living and learning together in faith.
- Good behaviour is acknowledged and rewarded on a daily basis in class and at playtimes through a class system of rewards. Class dojos are very popular and have a positive impact upon behaviour.
- We encourage the children to take on roles of responsibility throughout the whole school which serve to help and support others; e.g. School Councillors, Eco-Councillors, Chaplaincy Group, Monitors...Playground Buddies are used at playtimes on the Key Stage 1 Yard, to ensure that playtime is a good experience for the younger children. We also have an anti-bullying policy and hold an annual anti-bullying week of activities.
- We expect high standards of behaviour and help the children to understand that there are consequences for their actions.
- We have a culture of forgiveness; which is reflected in our Behaviour Leadership Policy. Our Code of Conduct is based upon consideration for others. We recognize that responsibility and discipline should be inseparable. We encourage all children to take responsibility for their actions.

It is important that the children understand the difference between right and wrong, and are encouraged to tell the truth and respect others and understand the importance of rules within school and the wider community.

Celebration Assemblies take place every Friday, recognising the many achievements of children through all aspects of school life. Certificates are awarded for attendance and personal and team accomplishments through clubs and competition. We also celebrate awards at our annual prize giving.

The learning of how to make responsible decisions is of paramount importance. Also that respect for life, property and the environment is of extreme importance for a stable society. We use discussion as an opportunity for adults to encourage moral development, based on real life situations with direct relevance to the children. This will allow the children to understand the criteria for making moral judgments and develop attitudes accordingly.

Definition of Social Development

Social-emotional development includes the child's experience, expression, and management of emotions and the ability to establish positive and rewarding relationships with others (Cohen and others 2005).

Social-emotional development lays the foundations for how we feel about ourselves and how we experience and interact with others. This foundation begins from the day we are born and continues to develop throughout our lives.

Social Development

We help the children to understand what is meant by anti-social behaviour including using inappropriate language and terms about other children. This is taught through PSHE lessons, assembly times and workshops through outreach support from within our community; e.g. gang culture, anti-social behaviour conference, Joseph Lapin...

At Our Lady Immaculate:

- We encourage all children to take part in the wider life of our school through the many lunchtime and after school clubs, extra-curricular activities and our extended schools provision.
- During lessons, there are planned activities for the children to work independently, collaboratively in groups or pairs using “Learning to Learn” techniques. There are opportunities for older children to buddy up with younger children across the school through Reading and Playground Buddies. The various School Councils also allow for the collaboration of younger and older children working together; e.g. through the School Council and Chaplaincy Groups.
- We use Military School to support our children in making right choices and enabling them to foster positive attitudes and values and ability to work cooperatively and effectively with others.
- We ensure that the children are regularly made aware of the safety issues associated with the Internet and social media. This occurs through Internet safety Competitions, assembly and through ICT lessons. Internet Safety Week is a high focus for us as a school.

Definition of Cultural development

Is the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time.

Cultural Development

Through teaching the curriculum, we ensure that there is a broad and balanced range of arts activities (art, music, drama, dance), for the children to take part and enjoy throughout the year.

At Our Lady Immaculate:

- We seek to develop in our pupils an understanding and awareness of their culture within a multi-cultural society.
- We provide opportunities to explore their own cultural values and those of others; and celebrate the values and traditions of other cultures.
- Our curriculum provides experiences of all aspects of culture including Religious Education, PSHCE, modern foreign languages and the Humanities curriculum.
- All areas of the curriculum can be used to promote and develop cultural awareness.
- We have an artist in residence and a designated dance teacher who both enhance and develop the arts curriculum for our children. Our music curriculum is also supported through “Resonate” and in Year 4 children are encouraged through the “Wider Opportunities Programme” to learn a musical instrument.
- We organise residential trips at Colomendy in North Wales and PGL at Winmarleigh Hall, Preston. These trips are most successful and help to make lasting friendships and memories.
- We develop partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend pupil’s cultural awareness.
- Our partnership with EMTAS, seeks to support our EAL pupils and their families. We view to extend our partnerships to include The Red Cross and Asylum Link.

- We organise a range of day trips throughout the year for all children to enhance their understanding and knowledge of the curriculum and attend the Advent Carol Service at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ The King. A Year 5 trip to Liverpool University; widens the children's horizons regarding the possibility of university life. They meet students and engage in a series of workshops leading to a graduation. Parents are also welcomed to attend the trip with their children. This partnership has led to a few of our parents changing their paths and going to University themselves!
- We arrange for theatre companies to come to school on a regular basis to ensure that all children can experience theatre and pantomime.
- We endeavour to run our school council elections to coincide with local elections this helps the children to develop their understanding of our democratic processes.

Social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is central to the development of all our pupils and permeates the whole curriculum and the ethos of our school. It is reflected in the behaviours of individuals and our whole school community through interactions with others and the teaching and learning environment.

The above experiences in SMSC will help the children in their development as they grow up and become active citizens in modern Britain. They will also help them to appreciate and respect our fundamental British values.