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## SPIRITUAL AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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### Our Mission Statement

We are a Catholic school. One family, living and learning together in faith.  
Our mission is to develop a Christ centred 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, and 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 wrongdoing.
- 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 everyday daily life and is constantly reinforced by how we as adults act as role models for the children.

The gospel values based upon "The Beatitudes," is at the heart of all that we do. Gospel values "are a guarantee of peace and 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.

Next Review: Spring 2028

- 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, Mission Champions, 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 Relationship & 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.

#### **Policy Monitoring and Review.**

This policy will be reviewed every two years.