

St. Monica's Catholic Primary School



Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Approved by Headteacher and Governors	Date: May 2023
Last Reviewed on	Date: May 2023
Next review	Date: May 2025

'Love one another as I have loved you.'

(John 13:34)

Our aims and purpose

We are deeply committed at St Monica's to stressing the uniqueness of each and every individual. We believe that every person is made in the image of God, and this affords them an integral dignity. In conjunction with our mission statement, we believe that the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of the children is an integral part of everything we do. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of our school and through the development of positive attitudes and values. This policy has been developed to ensure that we as a school provide a wealth of opportunities for our children to develop Spiritually, Morally, Socially and Culturally.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for individual pupils, and it is crucial for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about - helping pupils grow and develop as people and effective participants in modern Britain. We as a school actively promote British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance. It is an expectation at St. Monica's Catholic Primary School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make valuable contributions to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of our children through the curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g., discussion, reflection, pupil participation, circle time, etc.

We believe that through promoting these four kinds of development we will have a positive effect on how they children view themselves in today's world, how they understand the difference between right and wrong, how they relate to and respect others of all faiths, races and cultures and their understanding and appreciation of their own and other ways of life.

The foundations of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development begin at home and we as a school ensure that our programme for promoting these, support and compliment the work of parents and carers.

Mission Statement

'Success for all within a Christ-Centred Community'

As stated in our mission statement we are dedicated to all our pupils being successful in becoming upstanding members of our community and the wider world. Through being immersed in a Christ-Centred Community they will have acquired the attitudes and behaviour that means that they fully understand the difference between right and wrong. They will be encouraged to live out gospel values including forgiveness, freedom, tolerance, and respect every day.

General Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

We aim:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils at the school and in society.
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life.
- To enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong, to respect the civil and criminal law of England and to appreciate the rule of law is essential for well-being and safety.
- To enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England and to respect and support participation in the democratic process.
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development,
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to promote a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to all tasks.
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast-changing society.
- To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live.
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self-respect, and self-confidence.
- To promote good relationships between home, school, and the local and wider communities.

Spiritual Development

At St. Monicas Catholic Primary School, we provide our children with the opportunity to develop and focus upon their own individual experiences and individual identities, insights into their own beliefs and values, and also to understand the purpose of their own existence. This will develop their understanding of self and others. It encourages them to think carefully about their own feelings, emotions, attitudes, and beliefs. Spiritual development is not the same as religious education, though religious education and collective worship will play a significant role in our Catholic School.

Aims for Spiritual Development

- The ability to listen and be still
- The ability to reflect
- The ability to sense wonder and mystery in the world.
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships.

Objectives for Spiritual Development

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert.
- To develop the skill to use all one's senses.
- To develop imagination.
- To encourage times for quiet reflection throughout the school day.

- To develop individual self-confidence.

Moral Development

Through the promotion of moral development, the children are encouraged to understand the need for a common moral code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At St. Monica's Catholic Primary School, we encourage an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour and they will understand the consequences of choices that they make. Here at St. Monicas, we teach the children about the Christian ideals of love, concern and forgiveness for each other, the importance of considering the needs of others and we have a clear code of behaviour where high personal standards are expected.

Aims for Moral Development

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions.
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law in England.
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions

Objectives for Moral Development

- To tell the truth.
- To respect the rights and property of others.
- To help others less fortunate than themselves.
- To be considerate to others.
- To take responsibility of own actions.
- To exercise self-discipline.
- To develop high expectations and a positive attitude.
- To conform to rules and regulations to promote order for the good of all.

Social Development

We encourage our children to work together effectively, relating well to adults and actively participating in our local community. This enables the children to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local and wider community and make a positive contribution to the lives of others in society. Within this we know that there is a balanced consideration of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group or society along with the demands, obligations, and cooperation such membership requires. The provision of our mindfulness groups provides additional support and guidance for those children that need to develop greater self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence.

Aims for Social Development

- To relate positively to others.
- To participate fully and take responsibility in class and school.
- To use appropriate behaviour across a range of situations.
- To work cooperatively with others.

- To use own initiative responsibly.
- To understand our role in our family, school, and society.
- To encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in the UK.

Objectives for Social Development

- To share emotions such as love, joy, hope, anguish, and fear.
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.
- To work as part of a group.
- To interact positively across a range of situations, e.g., clubs, sports activities, visits, church services, music festivals, etc.
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a part of a caring community.
- To show care and consideration for others e.g., sharing and turn taking.
- To realise that every individual can do something well and has something to offer.

Cultural Development

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity for our children to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others. Our children are presented with a range of cultural activities so that they can develop an appreciation for their own and other cultures. Time is also dedicated in our RE education programme to the exploration of other faiths and cultures. Through all of this, our children are able to understand and appreciate the similarities and difference between themselves and others and they show a tolerance and respect for others.

Aims for Cultural Development

- To develop pupils' sense of belonging to their own culture and pride in their cultural background.
- To challenge opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to British values.
- To respond to cultural events.
- To share diverse cultural experiences.
- To respect diverse cultural traditions.
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition.

Objectives for Cultural Development

- To enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in the UK.
- To develop an awareness, recognition, and appreciation of the Arts, i.e., Music, Art, Drama, Literature, etc.
- To develop a love for learning.
- To develop an understanding of diverse cultures and beliefs, including but not limited to Christianity.
- To appreciate the values and customs of other ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British society, and the world beyond

Monitoring and Evaluation of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Pupils' development will be evidenced by continuous opportunities and assessment within the curriculum (e.g., teaching of different literature in English Spanish, Geography, History, Art, PSHE, RSHE and the study of other faiths and traditions in the RE programme of study. It will also be evidenced through pupils' involvement in the life of the school and the wider community (e.g., school visits, student council, mini police, class assemblies, charity work) and the atmosphere of good behaviour care and mutual respect within the school. Subject leaders will ensure that there are opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in all subjects.

Policy review

This policy will be monitored, evaluated, and reviewed by SLT, RE Lead and the Governing body and updated every 2 years.