

St Michael's Catholic Primary School

Spiritual Education Policy

Mission Statement

St Michael's Catholic Primary School Community follows Jesus by living, loving, learning and working together

'With Jesus we can *achieve* what we *dream* and *believe*'

As a catholic school the foundation of all we do is based upon Christ and his gospel values. The values that we embrace underpin every aspect of school life. These are:

Tolerance and Respect Relationships based on equality, trust and sincerity

Integrity and Honesty Decisions and actions based on Christian values-'Doing the right thing'

Joy and Happiness Celebrating the gifts, skills and talents of all in our school community

Peacefulness and Forgiveness Always being willing to say sorry and rebuild a broken relationship

Friendship and Nurturing High expectations for all in learning and behaviour

Courage and Aspire Personal drive and passion inspiring all

Diversity and Equality Accepting and promoting differences, whilst raising awareness that all should be treated equally.

'Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth. It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, valuing a non-material dimension to life and intimations of an enduring reality.'

At St. Michael's we seek to enhance our pupils' spiritual education and to encourage our children to develop attitudes of praise and reverence. We allow their natural instincts for awe and wonder to be realised and developed. We strive to proclaim the Christian message and live it alongside our children, their families, our school and parish community.

AIMS

1. To become aware of and reflect on experience.
2. To question and explore the meaning of experience.

3. For children to demonstrate knowledge of other world religions and philosophies.
4. For children to show an understanding of how people have sought to explain the universe.
5. To develop personal views and insights.

Teaching and Learning of Spiritual Education

Spiritual education is not a separate subject to be taught as part of the National Curriculum, but encompasses most subject areas such as R.E., P.S.H.E., Humanities; English as well as prayer and Liturgy and everyday life.

We provide the opportunity for the development of Spirituality in a range of ways:

- RE lessons, reflecting on the tradition of the Church and scripture and how faith is learnt, experienced and lived.
- Responding to awe and wonder in nature or other 'spiritual' moments and recognising the gift from God in that moment.
- Opportunities for quiet through reflective liturgy, prayer and meditation.
- Use of a variety of stimuli in lessons and liturgies to facilitate spiritual thought and reflection.
- Spiritual garden and other outdoor areas.
- Opportunities to share personal experiences, feelings and responses.

Evaluation Criteria

The extent to which the following opportunities are provided:

- To acquire insights into their personal existence
- To make sense of their life experience
- To develop a sense of wonder, awe, reverence, imagination
- To develop the human capacity to go beyond physical, tangible reality
- To develop a sense of the presence of God in their lives
- To reflect on and respond to this presence
- To become familiar with the life, words and action of Jesus
- To become familiar with the life, words and actions of the saints and significant Christians
- To hear of how people of other faiths respond to the spiritual dimension of life

Equal Opportunities

These will be pursued in line with the school's equal opportunity policy.

Resources

A range of materials in line with National Curriculum recommendation will be used. The purchase of new material will be undertaken after consultation with staff and the headteacher as and when required.

Staff Professional Development

Staff are encouraged to develop their own skills and knowledge to enhance their teaching of spiritual education which is supported by the school's prayer and liturgy and whole staff RE days.