



SAINT
OSWALD'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

SPIRITUAL POLICY

St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School

Spiritual Policy

(To be read in conjunction with the School Mission Statement.)

Rationale:

We recognise that Spiritual development is an intrinsic part of every child's education. The promotion of a child's spiritual development provides the 'why' of education. In our school, we view spiritual education as:

"...something fundamental in the human condition which is not necessarily experienced through the physical senses and /or expressed through everyday language. It has to do with the universal search for individual identity – with our responses to challenging experiences... It is to do with the search for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which to live."

(Spiritual and Moral Development, National Curriculum Council discussion paper April 1993)

We therefore acknowledge that our approach to spiritual development will be a process that allows the child to acquire insights into their personal existence, into the awe and wonder of the world in which they live, into their own beliefs and values. We will recognise the innate dignity and worth of each individual through opportunities that give rise to expression of character and personal responses.

Practice:

Developing a child's spirituality is the responsibility of the whole school community. In St. Oswald's, we address spirituality **explicitly** through:

- ❖ The teaching of 'Come and See'
- ❖ PSHE and Citizenship
- ❖ Circle time
- ❖ Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- ❖ Collective worship
- ❖ All curriculum subject areas – where content is suitable
- ❖ Drama
- ❖ Music
- ❖ Reflections
- ❖ The teaching of other faiths
- ❖ Links with other children through the local school cluster group
- ❖ Class masses
- ❖ Whole school masses
- ❖ Whole school celebrations

We also develop **implicitly** through,

- ❖ Actions
- ❖ Relationships between staff and children and staff and other adults
- ❖ Unspoken expectations
- ❖ Interaction and mutual respect between all members of the school community
- ❖ The school ethos led by our mission statement

Planning these opportunities will take the form of highlighting opportunities, within every aspect of school life. It is recognised that ‘Come and See’ provides a wealth of ‘opportunity’ for a child to develop their sense of self within the world.

Evaluation:

In St. Oswald’s school, we evaluate a child’s spiritual development by the extent to which the school provides the opportunities for pupils:

- ❖ To acquire insights into their personal existence
- ❖ To make sense of their life experiences
- ❖ To develop a sense of wonder, awe, reverence and imagination
- ❖ 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 actions 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 dimensions of life

We endeavour to provide children with the abilities to promote their spirituality by demonstrating qualities such as:

- ❖ Knowledge of the central beliefs, ideas and practices of major world religions and philosophies
- ❖ An understanding of how people have sought to explain the universe through various myths and stories, including religious, historical and scientific interpretations
- ❖ Beliefs which are held personally, and the ability to give some account of these and to derive values from them
- ❖ Behaviour and attitudes which derive from such knowledge and understanding and from personal conviction, and which show awareness of the relationship between belief and action
- ❖ Personal responses to questions about the purpose of life, and to the experience of the rich fabric of life itself.

Policy Monitoring and Review:

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the staff and Governors. The Foundation Governors will play an important role in monitoring this policy.

Reviewed December 2016