

**St Augustine's Catholic**

**Primary School**

**Policy for Spirituality**

# **St Augustine's Catholic Primary School**

## **Mission Statement**

**At the heart of our Catholic faith, we pursue the truth and strive for excellence. The more we recognise and appreciate the beauty and goodness in ourselves and others, the more we come to recognise God.**

**At St Augustine's School, we share the Light of Christ with each other and feel a sense of belonging to the family of the Church.**

**Our school is a place of order, stability, tolerance and love, where we foster good relationships between home, school, parish, local and wider community.**

**Together we will make this school a place where everyone is nurtured, supported and valued while being circled by God's love.**

**When God's love enters our hearts, we grow in wisdom and understanding.**

In *Spiritual and Moral Development across the curriculum* (1995) the Catholic Education Service says:

“We need to give pupils opportunities to reflect, in increasing depth, on what they have seen, or read, or done: to analyse their reactions; to justify the meaning they give to a particular experience. To help pupils into the habit of this kind of reflection is, therefore, an essential part of spiritual development.”

Cardinal Hume has described it in a way:

“Within each of us is an inner sanctuary where none may enter save, perhaps one or two close and trusted friends. It is into this area- the inner sanctuary- that God seeks to enter and to make his abode. Suffering and love are often, in different ways, heralds his arrival. He knocks at our door. We are free to open or not. It is this intensely personal nature of spirituality and spiritual development that makes it varied and adaptable to an infinite number of circumstances and individuals and, of course, to the different ages and experience of children in our schools.”

Andrew Wright says that, “All good education is spiritual education.”

## **Aims of Spiritual Development**

### **To Know: -**

- A) Each individual created by God is a spiritual being.
- B) We recognise the notion of the individual being on a journey of faith
- C) We are all on different points on this journey of spiritual development and we are invited to respond at their own level.
- D) Just as individuals are engaged on their own spiritual journey so too is the school community
- E) We need to celebrate and develop the spirituality of each person in our community
- F) We celebrate the personal spirituality through the school/local community/parish.
- G) To develop the individual self-confidence to express inner thoughts in a variety of ways
- H) To recognise the value of relationships, that each person is a person of worth.
- I) To sustain the self-esteem of pupils and their learning.

### **At the school we wish to develop:**

- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- A sense of transience and change
- A sense of pattern, order and purpose
- An awareness of personal worth, uniqueness and identity
- An awareness of others and relationships
- An awareness of community, its demands, values, rituals and celebrations
- An awareness of loss, suffering and sadness
- The opportunity to worship God
- The opportunity to develop their own sense of inner space

## **Spirituality across the curriculum**

In Catholic education we are aware that all knowledge and understanding comes from God. We desire to seek opportunities and capitalise on moments of experience and understanding, which takes pupils beyond themselves.

For example:

- **Religious Education**- this subject plays a central role in spiritual, moral and personal development, “ It is the foundation of the entire educational process. It promotes spiritual and ethical thinking. The Respect and the Rejoice section of Here I Am offer particular times when pupils may reflect prayerfully
- **Prayer and worship**- allows pupils to express and experience the presence of God in their live, See Religious Education Policy and Worship File.
- **Literacy**- not just a text, but an opportunity to reflect on and be moved by the experience of another
- **Science**- to use the opportunity to seek for meaning, to wonder at connections, pattern, to care for it, to appreciate the created world and God the Creator
- **Mathematics/ICT**- to wonder at the interconnectedness of the universe, of its laws and principles and the pupils own skills; to think logically and to appreciate some concept of infinity
- **Art/Music**- to marvel at the inventive and creative vision of the human person, to acknowledge God as its source. To be moved to appreciate beauty and what is beyond.
- **PE/Games**- to appreciate the beauty of line and form to marvel at their own skills and those of others. To appreciate the value of working together as a team
- **History**- to understand how humankind developed, to question and search for meaning
- **Geography**- this presents an opportunity to wonder at the creation of the world and how humans have helped to shape it
- **D.T.**- designing and making for others, sensitivity, empathy
- **P.S.H.E.**- is a curriculum area where spiritual and moral development can take place.

## **We want to help our pupils to:**

- Think, appreciate, question, wonder, love, reflect and work in a way that they exceed themselves
- Recognise the value of relationships, that each person is a person of worth, both pupils and adults in the school
- Sustain the self-esteem of pupils in their learning experiences
- Develop a sense of self-knowledge and self-awareness
- Provide opportunities for the expression of imagination, inspiration, insight, empathy and understanding throughout the curriculum
- Promote and encourage quiet reflection during lessons
- Promote the quest for learning
- Develop spirituality through prayer, dance, singing, music, poetry, art, drama, story and nature
- Share a joy of learning

All subjects should have some responsibility in contributing to spiritual development.

Every opportunity should be taken to explore the awe and wonder of creation and recognition that every thing comes from God through curriculum and collective worship.

## **How Spiritual Development is promoted in School**

Throughout the year children from all classes share prayers during collective worship, class assemblies and whole school assemblies. The children also share prayers as they join together at mass, penitential services and Para liturgies that are celebrated throughout the year through singing, reading and preparation.

The children will:

- Have opportunities for prayer, reflection and silence
- Be encouraged to express their creativity and imagination through the curriculum
- Be encouraged to develop a sense of community within the school, the ability to build up relationships with others
- Be helped to develop close home, school and parish liaison

Parents are invited to come to school masses, services and class assemblies. They also are asked to share in the promotion of developing the children's spirituality, through information given in school newsletters. Links are established with the parish through Mass and visits from the parish team to the school and educational visits to the church.

- Children's spirituality will be developed through studying the Here I Am scheme
- The spirituality development will be promoted through the different aspects of the Scheme Reflect, Relate, Rejoice and Renew
- To make all members of the school community aware of the Mission Statement encouraging all to live it daily
- All school policies are underpinned by the Mission Statement and the teaching of the church
- To reinforce within the school community how we at school treat each other and the school's Anti- Bullying Policy
- Developing an awareness of the importance of the different cultures we have to make up our school community
- To share and celebrate the different cultures in the school
- To provide children with moments of silence to reflect
- Promoting a system of reward and assemblies that help individual's self-esteem by sharing in good behaviour, attitudes towards others and work. Every Friday there is a Merit Card assembly when children from each class receive certificates from the Head for good work/ behaviour/ attitude.
- Parents, staff, pupils share in the Home School Agreement
- Share the Mission Statement each class will reflect on the School Mission Statement and will interpret what it means
- Work of the School Council
- Children will be able to further develop their spirituality through studying PSHE

- The Headteacher looks at work from different pupils in each class, praising and encouraging the children
- Spirituality will also be developed through extra-curricular activities that take place in the school

### **Help develop Spirituality by the Physical Environment**

- Displays reflect the cultural diversity of the school
- A prayer corner
- Religious artefacts and posters
- Display of School and class Mission Statements
- Purchase books using the RE budget to support staff on developing spirituality
- Displays of work in different subject areas around the school
- Encouraging the children to take care of the environment
- Experiences gained from school visits throughout the school year
- Children's prayers displayed around the building
- Throughout the liturgical year different areas of the School become focal points for prayer and worship.e.g. Nativity and Stations of the Cross

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Evaluating the effectiveness of the Spirituality Policy, which will be done through an annual audit.

Monitoring of children's work and celebration of their work.

Reviewing award systems that help enhance children's self esteem and promote positive attitudes and behaviour.

Continue to further develop and enhance links with Parish, home and school.

Evaluating the effectiveness of children/parents and staff as good role models.

Staff INSET and reflection on what developing spirituality means and how they can cultivate spirituality in the school.