

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

*Together, we learn, love and grow  
with Jesus*

Written by: R. Jackson Autumn 2023

To be reviewed: Autumn 2025

## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

"Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth. It is characterized by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, valuing a non-material dimension to life and intimations of an enduring reality. 'Spiritual' is not synonymous with 'religious'; all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development.

Spiritual development, then, is concerned with how an individual acquires personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has a purpose, and the basis for personal and social behaviour - questions which are 'at the heart and root of existence'. It is therefore also about what a school provides - through its curriculum, through Collective Worship, through its ethos and climate - to help individuals make sense of these questions, and about what it does to help form pupils' response to life and to various forms of experience, or even to questions about the universe."

*Religious Education in Catholic Schools - Bishops of England and Wales, May 2000.*

At St Jude's the spiritual development of our children is of fundamental importance. Thus, we all recognize the presence of God in every individual.

### Spiritual Development:

We aim to:

- celebrate feasts and seasons within the Christian calendar and that of other faiths and cultures
- reinforce positive behaviour through our Mission Statement, PHSE. Assemblies - we will help the pupils to develop a respect for themselves and others
- engender a sense of empathy with others through Circle Time, through links with other schools in the developing world and through fund raising
- develop their sense of identity and self-worth;
- create an environment of trust, care and compassion

- develop their principles, beliefs and values.
- enrich the children's understanding by providing opportunities for reflection on all aspects of school life
- enhance the pupils' appreciation for beauty, truth, love, goodness and wonder in our delivery of the curriculum as a whole in our Catholic school where, as a staff, we seek to support one another in this goal
- help form our pupils' responses to life and to understand how the impact of their feelings and emotions affects their behaviour and impacts on the feelings and emotions of others
- use our Behaviour Policy and Anti Bullying Policy which provide a clear moral code that is promoted consistently throughout the school and is reinforced through classroom rules and acceptable playground behaviour
- live out and promote our Mission Statement which encourages the wider school community to be inclusive and to promote measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, disability, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and other criteria
- celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and tailoring the learning and teaching environment to enable all to achieve their full potential and engender within them the importance of equality of opportunity for all
- praise and reward for good behaviour and acts of kindness
- reinforce the school's values through images, posters, exhibitions and classroom displays

In order to facilitate the development of such qualities opportunities will be provided for pupils to reflect and pray and to share their ideas verbally or through other media.

We do this through - the curriculum, opportunities for reflection, Collective Worship and the ethos of our school. Pupil knowledge of the liturgical calendar and appropriate use of religious artefacts and icons, candles and music will help to focus reflection during class Collective Worship and Whole School, Key Stage and Phase Collective Worship, Masses and other celebrations as well as Rejoice celebrations.

**Conclusion:**

As members of a Catholic learning community the Staff, Governors and partners strive to provide our pupils with the assurance that at St. Jude's they will come to know the true meaning of Christian life and be given opportunities to develop a personal relationship with God.

**Appendices**

Moral Policy

PSHE Policy

Behaviour Policy

RSHE Policy

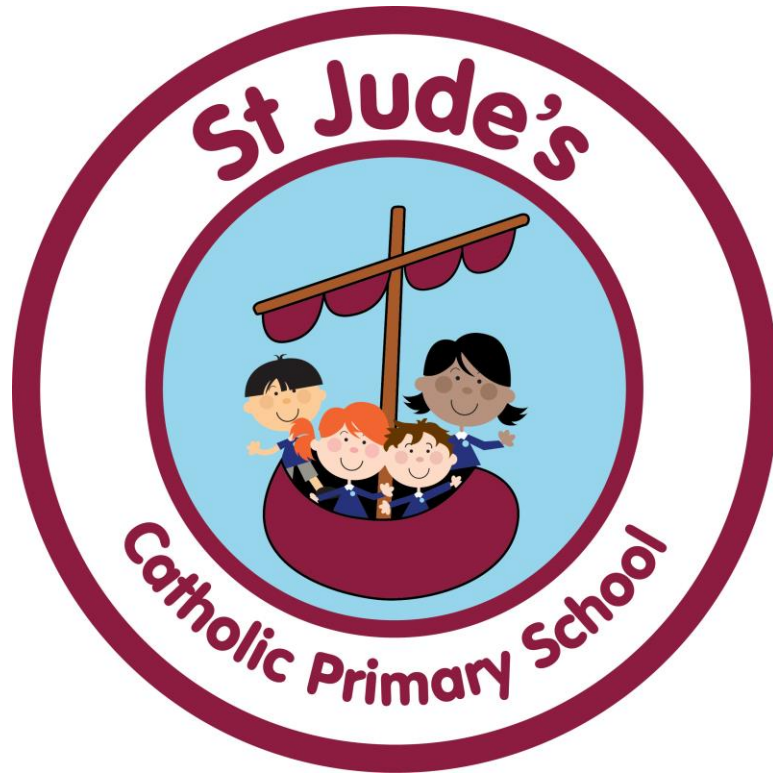
Collective Worship Policy

RE Handbook

**Review:**

The Spiritual Education Policy will be subject to regular monitoring by members of the teaching staff led by the Religious Education Co-ordinator and will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Headteacher and Governors.

**DATE:**.....



## MORAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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## MORAL DEVELOPMENT

At St Jude's we aim to foster a growing awareness of the distinction between right and wrong and good and evil in a social context. Through our teaching and the promotion of principles we aim to help our pupils develop moral values which regulate their behaviour.

"Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right or wrong.

Moral development involves the distinction between right and wrong, good and evil in a social context. Moral development, therefore, is about a growing awareness of, and positive response to, the demands of living as an individual with others in community. Schools, therefore, need to consider how an individual pupil and, of course, a teacher can best develop in his or her unique way within an identifiable Catholic community."

*Spiritual and Moral Development across the Curriculum - C.E.S., 1995*

We aim to:

- extend their knowledge and understanding of the range of accepted values in society;
- develop skills and attitudes such as decision making, self-control and consideration of others;
- promote, at appropriate levels, their ability to analyse, debate and make judgements about issues.
- develop an understanding of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us. As a Catholic School we seek to promote the Christian values of friendship, compassion and forgiveness
- offer a wealth of experiences which enables a pupil to develop their understanding
- provide opportunities for assemblies and acts of worship which provide models of moral virtue through gospel readings, the message of which is explored with the children, stories about significant role models to inspire the children and stories with a strong moral theme
- develop opportunities for pupils to show that their insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire and guide them in life

- to develop an understanding of moral behaviour in line with our Mission Statement which enables pupils to live out the gospel value of love in many ways such as forgiveness, freedom, tolerance, respect and relationships

These skills and attitudes are developed through all areas of the curriculum including Religious Education, A Journey in Love, citizenship, PSHE, SEAL, RSE and global awareness. Children are regularly involved in decision making and we have an active Schools Council.

At St Jude's we support many charities and good causes including local and global charities such as CAFOD, Mission Together, St Vincent De Paul Society, The Good Shepherd Fund, Twinkle House, The Brick Homeless Project, Butterflies Children's Charity, Shoe Box Appeal and Nugent Care.

#### **POLICY DELIVERY:**

Explicit teaching drawn from the "Come and See" syllabus and the Sacramental Programme will be used to give pupils knowledge and understanding of the moral teachings of the Church.

Implicit moral education will take place as the pupils observe the attitudes and values underpinning staff behaviour as we relate to other adults and to pupils.

Whole School and Key Stage Assemblies, Collective Worship opportunities, books, and drama will be used to reinforce the pupils' understanding of moral education.

#### Pupils' development will be evidenced by

Continuous assessment within RE

Pupil involvement in the life of the school and the wider community

Atmosphere of care within the school

Living out the Mission Statement of our school

### Monitoring and evaluation

We understand the spiritual and moral development of pupils is the responsibility of the whole school community. We aim to ensure that this policy is adopted by all through:

Staff meetings  
Key stage meetings  
Annual RE Inservice day  
Governors meetings  
Parents' meetings  
Links with community and Parish

### Conclusion:

In order to promote moral development St. Jude's will provide a secure community and environment in which the Gospel Values direct the life and work of the school. Pupils will be given opportunities for choice and decision making which enable them to demonstrate care and consideration for others.

### Appendices

Spiritual Policy  
PSHE policy  
Behaviour Policy  
RSHE Policy  
Collective Worship Policy  
RE Handbook

### Review:

The Moral Education Policy will be subject to regular monitoring by members of the teaching staff led by the Religious Education Co-ordinator and will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Headteacher and Governors.

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