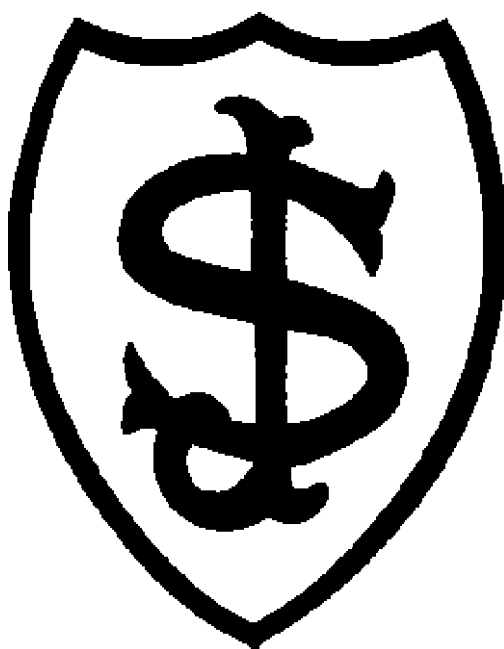


St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Moral Development Policy



Version	Date	Action
1	January 2023	Updated
2	Autumn 2024	Updated
3	Autumn 2925	Updated
4		

Mission Statement

***learning, growing, belonging...
happy together in God's family***

St Joseph's is a school community where we:

- encourage Christian values of love, care and respect
- create an atmosphere of faith, in which we share and celebrate our Catholic beliefs
- work in partnership with the children, their families and the parish
- provide a happy and safe environment in which all members of the school community feel valued
- develop the individual needs of our children to give them the confidence to participate as responsible citizens of the future
- equip our children with the basic tools of learning and help them achieve their maximum potential

Aims of St Joseph's School

- To be a Catholic school community in which the faith of staff and children is nurtured and developed through education, both formal and informal.
- To create a caring, happy environment where the school reflects a living Christian community, and in which pupils feel appreciated and secure.
- To foster the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, aesthetic and social development of the whole child.

To help children to:

- acquire the basic tools of learning – numeracy, literacy and oracy
- develop lively, enquiring, imaginative and creative minds with the ability to question and argue rationally
- become independent, self-motivated and self-disciplined
- develop their ability to work as contributors in co-operative groups in school, and the wider community in which they live
- develop a reasonable set of attitudes, values and beliefs in order to make the right choices
- develop understanding of the world in which they live
- develop aesthetic awareness and participate in the creative arts
- develop a wide range of physical skills, and an understanding of the need for a healthy life style

Rationale

In St Joseph's we recognise that Moral Development is an intrinsic part of every child's education. It allies with a holistic view of child education and its promotion provides a framework for children to build their own understanding of the world and to make suitable decisions. In our school we view moral education as a process of decision-making based on conscience, self-awareness, knowledge and freedom of responsibility.

Our understanding of morality is rooted in the willingness of an individual to see his or her own good in relation to that of the common good:

"The Lord Jesus came to live among us in order to show us the Father's love. His ultimate sacrifice testifies to his love for his friends. And the Lord's new commandment is at the centre of our faith: 'This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you'. The 'as' is a model and a measure of Christian love."

(The Religious Dimension of Education in the Catholic School, para 85)

We therefore acknowledge that our approach to moral development will be a process that allows each person to gain a sense of the greater good and of what is right and wrong. We endeavour to promote an awareness of conscience, informed by discussion and reflection. It is thus important to make our children aware of the scope and complexity of morality and its consequent decision-making challenges. Paramount is the need to be well informed, to think rationally and impartially across the curriculum about moral issues and experience the use of values in the decision-making process.

Practice

Developing each person's morality is the responsibility of the whole school community. Moral development is made through the planned and hidden curriculum. In other words, in St Joseph's we address morality both explicitly and implicitly.

We address morality explicitly through:

- the teaching of RE using the Religious Education Directory
- the teaching of our Mission Statement, both explicitly during our Mission Day and on *ad hoc* occasions
- RSHE through the use of the 'Journey in Love' programme and supplemented through other materials (PSHE association)
- Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- Prayer and Liturgy and assemblies
- Cross-curricular approaches where appropriate

- Drama
- Music
- Reflections
- Residential visits
- the teaching of other faiths
- Student leaders
- RE ambassadors
- After school clubs and other extracurricular activities

We address morality implicitly through:

- actions
- relationships and personal interactions, both individually and together
- school rules and routines and how they are addressed
- the consistent Behaviour Policy and using the 3Rs (ready, respect, responsibility)
- unspoken expectations expressed in tone of voice, posture, facial expressions, etc.
- the living-out of our school ethos led by our Mission Statement
- the planned and maintained environment throughout the school

Planning these opportunities for moral development takes the form of highlighting appropriate occasions within every aspect of school life. It is recognised that RE provides a wealth of opportunity for staff and children to develop their sense of self within the world, and additionally, RSHE provides specific opportunities for all to explore moral decisions and experience free choice motivated by knowledge and conscience.

Evaluation

The evaluation of moral development within St Joseph's School, carried out by the SLT and the RE lead, must be of a qualitative nature which impacts upon the school ethos and the maturation of the individual. It is measured by the extent to which the school provides:

- a secure community in which the Gospel-spirit of freedom, justice and love permeates every aspect of its life and work
- opportunities to develop a personal sense of morality in relation to self, others, local, national and global issues
- opportunities to decide what each holds as right and wrong, and the ability to voice and act out that belief appropriate to the maturity of the individual
- opportunities to consider questions of intention, motivation and attitude
- opportunities for choice and decision-making
- opportunities for all to know about, understand and discuss the moral teaching of the Church, again appropriate to age

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

- knowledge of the language and ideas of morality and, increasingly how these differ from other kinds of statements, logical or factual
- understanding of the nature and purpose of moral discussion, with the desire to persuade, combined with respect for other's viewpoints
- personal values in relation to the self, to others, locally, nationally and globally
- the disposition to act and behave in accordance with the values they learn, including the skills of making moral decisions and forming moral judgements

(Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development,
Feb 1994)