



# ST VINCENT'S SCHOOL

A Specialist School for Sensory Impairment and Other Needs

Policy Document Title:	Spiritual and Moral Development Policy
To be read in conjunction with:	RE Policy
Reviewed:	12/22RB
To be reviewed:	12/23

## Objectives:

- Pupil awareness and understanding of our Mission Statement.
- We work to achieve high quality in all aspects of education.
- As a Catholic school the teachings of Christ will be reflected in all that we do. We respect the beliefs and values of other Christian traditions and other world faith communities.
- All of our pupils are taught within the context of a Catholic Christian community. This means that our teaching is inclusive of the beliefs and practices of other Christian faiths. We also make every effort to understand and celebrate other major world faiths.
- The provision of a broad and balanced twenty-four hour curriculum that will enable each pupils to develop his/ her full intellectual and social potential with a focus on working towards the Common Good and encouraging and facilitating independence.
- The learning programmes are matched to the individual needs of each child so that each child can work to the best of their ability, hence developing a sense of achievement and confidently progressing into further education or vocational training with the aim of employment.

## We aim:

To support our staff community by valuing the individual role of each person and encouraging all staff to work together to achieve personal and professional fulfillment for the benefit of both staff and pupils.

**Objectives:**

- Weekly staff meetings
- Regular departmental meetings
- Weekly designated staff prayer time
- Access to the Chapel throughout the day
- Information sharing.
- Equal opportunities.
- Enhance the quality of our community development by the whole staff sharing in the provision of spiritual and moral education.
- Maintenance of SMSC grid by nominated member of staff (SMSC coordinator)
- All staff to forward SMSC evidence to nominated SMSC coordinator on a regular basis.

**We aim:**

To support our parents by encouraging and maintaining our strong relationships of mutual respect and support.

**Objectives:**

- Striving constantly to maintain links between home and school
- Sharing in the spiritual and moral education of our pupils
- Maintaining an 'open door' policy

**We aim:**

To maintain and further develop our relationships and links with the local and wider community.

**Objectives**

- To welcome the wider and local community to visit and support our school
- Encourage volunteers to support our work
- To share wherever possible in the spiritual and moral education of our pupils.

## **Religious Education & the Mission Statement**

Religious Education is at the heart of the schools caring atmosphere and ethos, making a vital contribution to the building of the faith community. Staff work to communicate the teachings of Jesus and live these out in the quality of work and actions undertaken. By encouraging the pupils to think, reason, respect and love we are helping to build the individual pupil towards integration into society. As a Catholic school, we are universal and all-embracing of pupils of other Christian and world faiths as well as those who have no faith. We celebrate, with our pupils, many of the world's belief systems and cultures. This is an overall commitment to the Mission Statement and to the spiritual and moral development of all our pupils and the whole school community.

### **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.**

As a school we seek to provide these aspects in terms of the experience of goodness, beauty, awe, wonder, questioning, respect for the world and for each other and the realisation that there is more to life than just our present existence.

### Spiritual Development

#### **Philosophy**

Spiritual development at St. Vincent's is rooted firmly within the expression of our Mission Statement. It is apparent across the twenty-four hour curriculum and is evident in all that we do as teachers, carers, support staff and pupils. It is also evident in the work that we support within the local and wider community.

As a school we seek to provide opportunities for the experience of goodness, beauty, awe, wonder, questioning, respect for the world and for each other and opportunities for the realisation that there is more to life than just our present existence.

As a Christian community, St. Vincent's gives the above aspects a sharp focus based on the belief in God and the knowledge that God is the author and creator of all beauty, all goodness and all truth. Spiritual development is therefore having an awareness of God, being in awe of the glory and wonder of God, and being aware of how God acts in our world. All this is reflected in our teaching, and in examples of the life, works and actions of Jesus His Son.

### **Aims**

Here at St Vincent's we aim to provide, through curriculum content, teaching, collective worship, prayer and Christian ethos, opportunities for our pupils, within the Christian tradition, to benefit from those experiences, which allow them to become closer to God.

### **Objectives**

Our objectives here at St. Vincent's are to provide our pupils with programmes and experiences, which will help them to:

- Gain an insight into their own personal existence
- Make sense of their life experiences
- Experience a sense of wonder, awe reverence and imagination
- Develop a sense of wonder within their own lives

### **How do we do this? The Process**

We strive at all times to achieve these aims and objectives through:

- The teaching of a fully modified and differentiated Religious Education programme in line with the diocesan frameworks. This allows all pupils' individual and specific needs to be met according to their visual impairment and other special needs they may have.
- Daily Collective Worship
- The teaching of a fully differentiated and modified National Curriculum. This allows our pupils to explore the world, and come to a realisation of their own vital role within society today

- Target setting allows for the discovery of new personal skills and the development of those already acquired.
- Cross curricular activities such as an awareness of our ecumenical tradition and CST.
- Christian example- including support for charities- provided by members of our community here at St. Vincent's
- The celebration of our pupils' achievements.

## **Moral Development**

### **Philosophy**

This is founded in the 'living out' of our school Mission Statement.

Moral development is concerned with the pupils' ability to make informed judgements about behaviour or actions with a background of sound reasoning.

This includes questions of attitudes, intention and motive. Helping our pupils to make moral decisions is a crucial part of the development of a moral conscience. Conscience is always concerned with a decision to be made, an action to be performed or avoided, the choice between right and wrong.

In order for our pupils to have the confidence to make an informed decision, our pupils must firstly have confidence in themselves. They should be made aware of their own special values and qualities as well as the special qualities that others have. Our Christian ethos here at St. Vincent's positively encourages affirmation, the development of self-worth, of independence, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Staff are role-models for pupils by demonstrating a code of behaviour that encompasses a sense of moral judgement, the values of the Gospels and of Christian tradition. At all times we encourage kindness, thoughtfulness, care and consideration and empathy for the feelings of others.

## **Aims**

Here at St. Vincent's we work to provide our pupils with the opportunities to develop a sound moral conscience, through our Christian ethos, values and religious education.

## **Objectives**

The values that we promote here at St. Vincent's support moral issues which include: the importance of being truthful, working to keep promises, respecting the rights and property of others, acting considerately towards others, helping those less fortunate or weaker than ourselves, taking personal responsibility for our actions, self discipline and self control. The community of St. Vincents therefore promotes and supports within all that we do and by living out the Mission Statement, the above moral issues. So through our teaching, we encourage and develop within all our pupils:

- Knowledge of the language and idea of morality
- Understanding of the nature and the purpose of morality
- Personal values in relation to self, relationships, local and world issues
- A disposition to act and behave in accordance with such values
- An awareness of the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves

We actively promote values that will oppose:

- Bullying
- Cheating
- Deceit
- Cruelty
- Irresponsibility
- Dishonesty
- Bad behaviour

## **How do we do this? The process**

We strive at all times to achieve these aims and objectives through:

- School and class rules
- A fully modified and differentiated Religious Education framework /programmes as guided by the diocese
- Daily Collective Worship
- Attitudes and examples of all staff by showing respect for all
- Stories of role models from the past and present in particular the work of St.Vincent and other saints
- Discussion of issues of moral importance and the development of a sense of empathy for others
- Expectations of standards of behaviour for all staff and pupils which are acceptable and in-line with school community rules
- Providing opportunities for pupils to celebrate their own achievements and the achievements of others
- Fostering an atmosphere of mutual encouragement, respect and support

## **Evaluation**

In terms of policy this will take place annually. Concerning the living out of our own spiritual and moral development, this will take place daily and in every action of our working and living lives as we personally ask the following questions

## **ARE WE .....?**

- Supporting all pupils in their religious, spiritual and moral development, regardless of their home background, race or creed?
- Celebrating the best in the lives of our pupils and the whole school community?
- Recognising the difficulties that our pupils have to overcome?
- Motivating our pupils to accept the challenges that they have to face?
- Encouraging our pupils and community to look beyond ourselves by supporting each other?

