

Finchley Catholic High School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Policy Summary

The Catholic belief that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, and that each person shares in God's purpose to bring life and allow creation to flourish, underpins the work and nature of the school.

Guidelines and Principles underlying the policy

Where does Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education specifically but not exclusively take place?

- In assembly
- In PSHE lessons/tutorial
- In planned opportunities for collective worship
- In our discipline procedures and Rewards and Sanctions structure
- In Student Voice activities
- In the corridors and in the playground
- In planned whole school activities, including enterprise and charity fundraising.
- In the way in which school policies are implemented.

Each curriculum area has a contribution to make to the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Opportunities for such development can be found in departmental handbooks, schemes of work and in lesson content.

Catholic spirituality and Catholic values and principles are explored in all curriculum areas. These values are especially evident in the Religious Education programme and in the school's collective worship. The integrity and spirituality of pupils/staff from other faith backgrounds is respected and explored.

All who work in the school irrespective of role are expected to model and promote excellent behaviour; every person is expected to treat others as unique, showing love, respect and tolerance for one another, be they pupil or adult.

The school community is a safe and secure place where pupils can find acceptance of themselves as unique individuals; it is a place where forgiveness is practised and where the opportunity for reconciliation and a fresh start is encouraged.

Pupils learn to differentiate between right and wrong and explore how their actions affect other people. They are encouraged to value themselves and others.

Pupils understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of the whole school community. School and classroom rules reflect, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

General aims of the policy

This policy is intended to help achieve several things including:

- To ensure that all who are connected to the school are aware of its Catholic values and principles
- To ensure that there is a consistent approach to the delivery of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- To ensure the pupils' education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to age, aptitude and background.
- To provide a range of opportunities for pupils to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

Appendix – Guidance for implementation

Spiritual development

As a Catholic school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning environment.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience moments of stillness, reflection and prayer.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of God's creation.

Moral development

As a Catholic school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual as created by God.

- Recognise the challenge and authority of Christ's teaching.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.
- Understand the consequences of their actions on those around them.

Social development

As a Catholic school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about service to the school, to the Church and the wider community.
- To begin to understand the Christian imperative for social justice and peace.
- To develop concern for the disadvantaged, poor and hungry.
- Come to understand the social aspects of learning.

Cultural development

As a Catholic school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity and how these influence individuals in society.
- Recognise Christianity as both a local and world-wide faith.
- To develop and understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- To develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European and global dimensions.

Teaching and Organisation

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development takes place across all curriculum areas. These include activities that encourage pupils to:

- Recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning
- To reflect on the significance of what they are learning.
- To recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitudes and lifestyles.

Class discussions will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others.
- Consider the needs and behaviour of others.

- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness.

Each curriculum area should provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Listen and talk to each other
- Understand and value the difference in all its dimensions.
- Learn the importance of treating others as equals.
- Agree and disagree in a constructive, tolerant and generous way

Links with the wider community

- Visitors are welcomed into school
- Links with the Church are fostered through local parishes, the Westminster Religious Education Service and other links with Westminster Diocese.
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupils.
- Pupils are taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility towards it.
- Outreach work is evidence through the school's links with the Mary Happy School and Orphanage in Kenya, pupils' annual involvement in charity fundraising and support for the work of CAFOD.