



*St Thomas More
Catholic Primary School*

*Spiritual Development
Policy*

Adopted by Governing Body: May 2022

Review: May 2024

“Try to be like Jesus in all that I think, do and say”

Introduction

In light of our Mission Statement we understand spiritual development to be an on-going continuous process of helping each member of our school community to deepen their relationship with God through the opportunities and experiences we offer in the daily life of the school.

Each individual created by God is a spiritual being.

The development of spirituality respects the uniqueness of each individual and the need to be faithful to the truths of the Catholic Church. It acknowledges that:

- We are all on our own faith journey.*
- We are all at different points on this journey.*
- We need to celebrate and develop the spirituality of each person in our community.*
- Spiritual development is an integral part of every aspect of school life.*

Aims:

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School we believe that each human being in our community has the absolute right to respect and dignity and to be a part of a community, which promotes spiritual development in the traditions of the Catholic Church.

The potential for spiritual development is open to everyone and fundamental to learning. Curiosity, the inclination to question, the exercise of imagination, insight and intuition, motivate learning and intellectual development.

We recognise the value of relationships, the importance of sustaining the self-esteem of pupils in their learning experience and staff in their teaching and/or contribution to school life.

We involve the school in the spiritual life of:-

- Families, by invitations to assemblies, celebrations and Masses.*
- Parish, by invitations to the clergy, parishioners, governors to assemblies, Christmas and Easter celebrations.*
- The wider church, through communication with the Bishop and diocese, by taking part in the diocese Mass for schools and involving ourselves with all Church directives and teaching.*
- Opportunities and strategies for Spiritual Development*

It is our aim to promote spiritual development in the following ways:-

- *By providing opportunities for the expression of imagination, inspiration, insight, empathy and understanding throughout the curriculum.*
- *Through Religious Education which should develop the themes of Revelation, Community, Way of Life and Celebration.*
- *By encouraging the setting aside of a time when pupils can reflect upon being inspired by the natural world, mystery or human achievement – sense of awe and wonder – through the many opportunities in Come and See and other subjects such as English, Art and Music*
- *By promoting opportunities for stillness, silence and reflection ensuring that questioning, self-awareness and self-knowledge are encouraged eg through Come and See, assemblies, acts of worship and Masses.*
- *By fostering the emotional lives of our pupils particularly with regard to the experience of feelings.*
- *By recognising that an important part of children's spiritual development is the acquisition and deployment of the following skills:-*
 - *Investigational*
 - *Interpretational*
 - *Communication*
 - *Critical*
 - *Social*
 - *Evolutional*

These skills encourage questioning and reflection, which lead to a greater level of self-awareness, promoting a deeper understanding of the meaning of life.

- *By the school community regularly celebrating and worshipping together as outlined in the Liturgy and Prayer Policy.*
- *By communal projects such as harvest, giving to the needy of the community, supporting CAFOD and other charities.*
- *We recognise that the quality of our school environment reflects our spiritual nature. Our displays, religious artefacts, signs and symbols and prayer corners are all outward signs of our spirituality. These are regularly changed to reflect the liturgical year, seasons and areas of the curriculum.*
- *By making resources available in the RE resource area, classroom area and through the Come and See programme.*
- *By the spiritual development being promoted and monitored by the Head Teacher, RE Subject Leader and Chaplaincy team. All members of staff are responsible for the spiritual development of all the pupils in the school.*
- *By the school community recognising we are all at different places in our faith journey and we should respect each other. The Chaplaincy team through its pastoral work helps all individuals on their personal journey.*
- *By the school recognising that the parents and other family members have a greater influence on the life of the child than anyone else. Parents are welcome into the school, particularly for celebrations and school Masses.*

- *By each policy document having the School Mission Statement at its head it is made clear that there is an expectation to promote spiritual development throughout all curriculum subjects.*

Organisation, Monitoring and Evaluation

Each member of our school community has a unique part to play in our school spiritual journey. All aspects of school life - display, assemblies, delivery of Come and See and prayer life will be constantly reviewed to evaluate improvement for spiritual development.