

St. Robert's Catholic



Primary

St Robert's Catholic Primary School

Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Sant Robert

Spiritual & Moral Development Policy

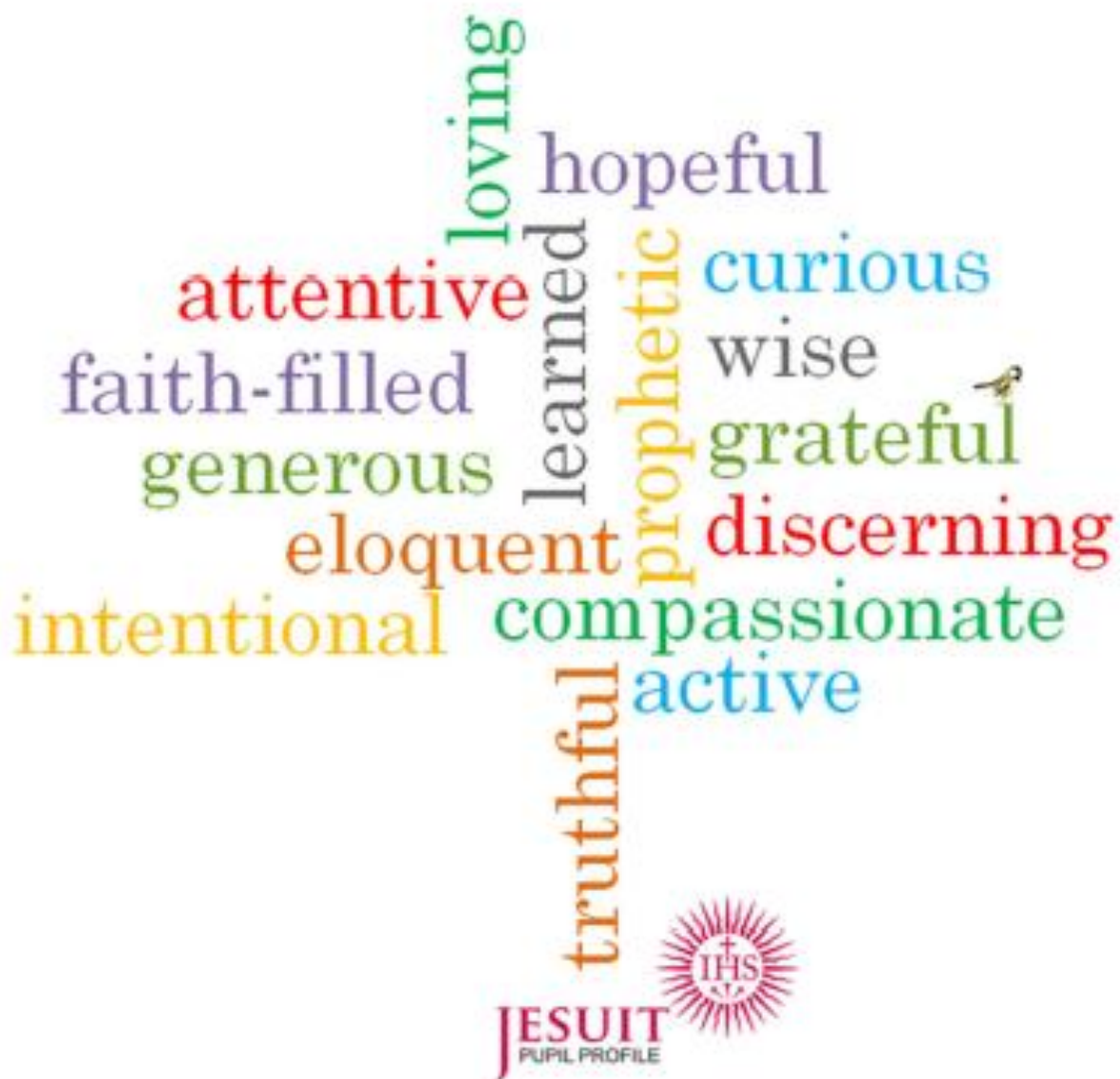
Scope	This policy applies to all stakeholders of the school
Policy Adopted By	Head Teacher and Governing Body
Signed	<i>C Beveridge</i>
Date	Spring 2026
Date of Review	Spring 2028

Mission Statement - 'Jesus in Us' 'Iesu ynom Ni'

Jesus and the 'Good News' that He brings is the basis of our school life.

Each person in our school is unique and our intention is that they will be Ambitious, Capable Learners, Ethically, Informed Citizens, Enterprising, Creative Contributors & Healthy, Confident Individuals.

They will be Virtue - led and develop to their full potential - with Jesus as their guide, the Holy Spirit as their inspiration and God as their loving Father.



The Spiritual life of St Robert's Catholic Primary School

"Each one of you is a child of God." Pope Francis

Rationale

At St. Robert's Catholic Primary School, we recognise that spiritual development is an intrinsic part of a child's education and fundamental to the development of the individual.

We acknowledge that our approach to spiritual development, for all members of our community must be a sensitive one which allows for enquiry and reflection.

It will be a process which allows each to acquire insights into personal experience; into the awe and wonder of the world in which we live; into the search for meaning and purpose in life.

We acknowledge the innate dignity and worth of each individual as children of God and the spiritual development of the members of St. Robert's Catholic Primary School community is concerned with:

'... the ongoing development of the entire potential of each individual made in the image and likeness of God and (involves) finding fulfilment in God alone.'

(Religious Education in Catholic Schools, Bishops of England and Wales, 2000)

Purpose

To ensure that pupils' experiences, in school and in parish-based activities, are conducive to spiritual growth so that:

- Pupils are open and responsive, aware of themselves and of life's challenges;
- Pupils are trusting, in themselves, in others and in God;
- Pupils are willing to engage, to take responsibility and to do what is right with courage and hope;
- Pupils will be able to love others, be generous in spirit and respond well to hardship.

Through our life in school and our curriculum, we offer:

- interaction with positive role models;
- Opportunities for discussion; support and advice and personal target setting.

At St. Robert's we believe that:

- God's Spirit is alive in each person from the first moment of being;
- This is God's gift, freely bestowed on each person;
- Spiritual growth occurs with the free response of each human heart to this gift;
- It is not confirmed by religious, creed or culture, for the spirit moves freely over the whole earth.

The three main starting points for assisting spiritual growth lie with...

- 1. The role of the staff**
- 2. The role of the community**
- 3. The spiritual life of the community**

1. The Role of the Staff

At St. Robert's Catholic Primary School all staff will strive to:

- Fill children with enthusiasm for learning.
- Create interest in the serious pursuit of knowledge and truth.
- Encourage depth and range of discovery.
- Assist the linking of language and ideas and reflection on these as an encouragement for spiritual growth.

Language

Opportunity is also given for spiritual growth wherever the language of teaching is carefully chosen to:

- Convey belief in our children.
- Encourage and praise the pursuit of truth.
- Convey the worth of educational endeavour.
- Sustain the dignity and confidence of the individual so that personhood is respected and the inner life can grow.

Helping children

There is opportunity for spiritual growth wherever staff help children to:

- Be sensitive to the subtleties of colour, sound, movement, pattern and order, the complexity of systems and design.
- Appreciate the history and scope of human achievement and scientific development.
- Know the beauty of language and its potential.
- Foster knowledge and appreciation of music, drama, art and all areas of human excellence.
- Consider the complex and sustained working of the natural world in order to point them to possibilities beyond the day to day routine which challenge thinking and promote inner growth.

Techniques

Using the designated daily time set aside for Examen.

Pupils ask God to look at their day with his eyes and their own.

Adopting the virtues from the St. Robert's Pupil Profile Pupils concentrate on pairs of virtues, every two months.

The aim of this education is 'improvement in living and learning for the greater glory of God and the common good'.

Forming intellectually competent, good and virtuous young people is the task of our Catholic school. It is desired by parents for their children and an enterprise in which all teachers can share. The virtues in this profile have their roots in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

P4C Questioning Techniques

The nature of the open-ended question is to challenge the children to explore a variety of possible answers e.g. Who am I? Who made me? Why am I here?

Thought

An opportunity for children to offer thanks for the gift of life, also the challenge to examine their own life stance, their attitudes, values and practices.

Meditation

Giving children the opportunity to think about events and people in their lives, that they rarely take time to consider. This takes place daily from 1.30-.135 and it is the expectation that the school community fully engage in this time. No staff are to disturb classes with messages as this is ring fenced time for meditative prayer. Staff join in with the meditation.

Awe and Wonder

Using observational skills, preferably first hand, to experience and appreciate the beauty of God's creation surrounding us.

Display

To use display in all areas of the curriculum to show the significance of God in our lives. This can be done successfully using scripture references, phrases from hymns, psalms, prayers etc.

Practice

Developing each person's spirituality is the responsibility of the whole school community. Spiritual development is made through the planned and hidden curriculum. In other words, at St. Robert's we address spirituality both explicitly and implicitly.

We address spirituality explicitly through:

- The teaching of RE.
- Relationships and Sex Education.
- Collective Worship and assemblies.
- Cross-curricular approaches where appropriate.
- Drama.
- Music.

- Reflections.
- Sacramental preparations.
- Liturgical celebrations.
- Planned visits to church.
- Within the teaching of other faiths.

We address spirituality implicitly through:

Actions

- Relationships and personal interactions, both individually and together. Unspoken expectations expressed in tone of voice, posture, facial expressions etc.
- The living-out of our school ethos led by our mission statement.
- The degree of welcome we afford visitors.
- The environment throughout the school.

“It should be no surprise that young people bring with them into the classroom what they see and hear in the world around them, along with the impressions gained from the world of mass media. Perhaps some have become indifferent and insensitive. The school curriculum, as such, does not take these attitudes into account, but teachers are very aware of them. With kindness and understanding, they will accept the students as they are, helping them to see that doubt and indifference are common phenomena, and that the reasons for this are readily understandable. But they will invite students in a friendly manner to seek and discover together the message of the Gospel, the source of joy and peace. The teachers’ attitudes and behaviour should be those of one preparing the soil. They can then add their own spiritual lives, and the prayers they offer for the students entrusted to them.”

The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School no 71

2. The Role of the Community

At St. Robert’s School we seek to be a community of faith. The community of St. Robert’s, Staff, Governors and parents all share the common responsibility of striving to provide for children, the assurance that here in this School they will come to know the meaning of the Christian life; the way of Jesus.

We strive to provide visible signs and tangible experience of this spiritual journeying by aiming to be a place of welcome, where pupils experience a sense of easy familiarity with the things of God. The following elements are focused on in order to try to achieve this. The Work of God being made available to all by sharing it daily in the community via assemblies, prayer and liturgy.

- By providing appropriate use of icons, images and display which help to focus reflection.
- By ensuring familiarity with the liturgical year as the context for celebration, achieved via liturgy, assemblies and also both formal and informal prayer.

- By providing space and time for God via prayer, assemblies, Mass and other Liturgies e.g. Penitential Services, Prayer club, prayer tables/focus.

We also aim to provide:

- An understanding of prayer as expressing relationship with God;
- The linking of all our relationship with this friendship with God;
- Offering many different ways into prayer for the individual and for the community;
- Celebrating the sacraments in ways that are full of meaning for the lives of the children.

3. The Spiritual Life of the Community

To promote the spiritual growth of the children in our care there is a need for the community as a whole to take the necessary measures to sustain our own inner growth.

We can achieve this by:

- Being confident that the Spirit is working in us as we commit ourselves to helping our children, for we each have a personal call from God.
- Cultivating a spirit of hope.
- Emphasising friendship within the whole community. In friendship with all we learn to trust, create together, recognise the goodness of others, share something of ourselves.
- Working for the healing of any form of division so that the community does not deny itself the ability to receive the Spirit and grow.
- Recognising that though suffering and pain are not of God, they can be the means of reaching new depths of self-knowledge and of developing hidden strengths and gifts. We need help to know this however and it is important that we experience the support of others in our pain and respond to the suffering of others.
- Praying often as a community, so that we learn to relate all things to God, to discern his presence and working in our lives.

Evaluation

The evaluation of Spiritual Development within St. Robert's School is of a qualitative nature which impacts upon the whole school ethos and the maturation of the individual. It is measured by the extent to which the school provides opportunities for all to develop:

An attitude to life based on:

- A development of personal beliefs including religious beliefs;
- An appreciation that people have both individual and shared beliefs on which they base their lives;
- A growing awareness of the way in which personal understanding contributes to personal identity;

- An understanding that one's inner resources provide the ability to rise above everyday experiences;
- A sense of awe, wonder and creativity inspired by:
 - The natural world;
 - Human achievement with the arts and science.

A search for meaning and purpose in life by:

- Developing appropriate responses to the challenging experiences of life such as beauty, suffering and death;
- Being concerned by injustice and aggression and their effect on others;
- A growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to use such feelings as a source of growth and human experience.

Self-awareness and relationships by:

- Developing self-respect;
- Fostering an appreciation of the individuality of others;
- Recognizing that every individual has worth;
- Building up relationships with others;
- Fostering a sense of community.

“The school must be a community whose values are communicated through the interpersonal and sincere relationships of its members and through both individual and corporate adherence to the outlook on life that permeates the school.”

(The Catholic School no 32)

Moral Development

“Teaching has an extraordinary moral depth and is one of the most excellent and creative human activities, for the teacher does not write on an inanimate material, but on the very spirits of human beings.”

(The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium)

The whole community of St. Robert's Primary School aims to:

- Deepen the child's awareness of the message of Christ as expressed in the Gospel and to enable our pupils to reflect these values in their daily life and in their relationships with their peers and adults.
- Develop the child's self-esteem, highlight 'good behaviour' through emphasis on a positive approach of rewards and praise.
- Cultivate in children an acceptance and recognition of responsibility for their own decisions and actions and for their consequences.
- Develop qualities e.g. self-discipline, co-operation, sharing, helping others, truthfulness, honesty, respect for people and property.

- Create condition for an orderly community in which effective learning can take place and in which there is a mutual respect between all members.

In order to achieve these aims the Staff are committed to:

- A positive discipline policy, emphasising praise and reward for good behaviour.
- Encouraging good attitudes and relationships among pupils.
- The acknowledgement that every human being is uniquely created by God and destined to share in the life and love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and as a consequence recognise all human beings as God's family, our brother and sisters.
- The creation of a relaxed, welcoming environment in which friendly relationships can flourish.
- Supporting the involvement of parents, Governors, the parishes and local communities, working together in close partnership in order to enable the pupils in our school community to achieve their full potential.

The inspiration and challenge for all we attempt to do in this regard are the values proclaimed by the Gospel. Our role model must be Jesus Christ and our belief that all human beings are uniquely created and loved by God and are worthy of respect.