



**DUKINFIELD**

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural  
Development Policy**  
(February 2018)

# **St Mary's Catholic Primary School** **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural** **Development Policy**

*Our mission is to work to develop the full potential of each individual in an environment where the Gospel values of love, peace, truth and justice are lived out.*

This means we aim to meet our pupils' needs in the light of the Gospels. We firmly believe it is our religious dimension which makes St. Mary's Catholic Primary School distinctive.

It is found in the School in:

- the quality of relationships based on care and respect.
- the belief that all knowledge and learning comes from Christ.
- the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum which is based on the above, and which is designed to enable all children to reach the highest standard of personal achievement.

Our basic purpose is the communication of Christ through all we do.

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

### **RATIONALE:**

As a Catholic School, we seek to develop an ethos whereby the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all within the school community are supported. We regard this as an expression of the gospel call to love, as expressed in our Mission Statement

### **SPIRITUAL:**

As a Catholic community we strive to support the pupils in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, pupils will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. We believe that this begins with a personal experiential encounter with the living Christ and that once experienced this needs to be fostered and developed through:

- personal and community prayer
- a sense of God's presence permeating the life of the school
- liturgies where pupils become aware of entering His presence
- hearing His word spoken in Scripture
- experiencing the community of the faithful
- celebration of the mass
- a curriculum that creates a sense of awe, wonder and of the transcendent
- quiet times of reflection
- opportunities to express personal views and insights whilst searching for the truth together

## **MORAL**

At the heart of the Church's and the school's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God. We are called to reflect God's love for us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have been given the freedom to respond to His love, or reflect Him. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development – to our becoming fully human. At St Mary's we believe:

- love is at the heart of the Catholic understanding of morality
- morality touches all aspects of the curriculum
- every free human action has a negative or positive influence on life
- individuals are created free by God to choose what is right or wrong
- we, as a Church, hate the sin but love the sinner
- misdemeanours need to be dealt with but the individual must be treated with respect
- pupils should grow in their understanding of what is right and wrong so as to become autonomous moral agents.

## **SOCIAL**

God did not create mankind for life in isolation, but for the formation of social unity. Therefore, it is part of the responsibility of the school to support pupils, and their families, in the formation of good social attitudes. The school community will nurture our pupils to:

- learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that come from membership of a group and community
- become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others
- experience, through the social organisation and management of the classroom, opportunities to learn and develop correct social skills and attitudes
- participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co-operative skills that will help all to live with each other
- learn what it means to be a responsible citizen.

## **CULTURAL**

Cultural development is the increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values and customs, knowledge and skills which taken together form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups. Cultures grow and change; features of the past influence the present and will shape its future form. Pupils at St Mary's will:

- be introduced to the values and customs held within our Catholic cultural tradition
- be taught about the values and customs of our national culture
- become aware of cultures of the past through historical programmes of study
- respect the values, customs and cultural heritage of people who belong to other faiths or ethnic cultures
- have their cultural achievements outside school acknowledged and valued
- be taught through a curriculum which will enrich, deepen and broaden their experience of all cultural excellence whether aesthetic, mathematical, literacy-based, technological, musical or scientific.

This policy was reviewed and revised by a cross-sectional representative group of teachers and teaching assistants on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

It was subsequently adopted on behalf of the governing body by the Catholic Ethos, Performance and Standards sub-committee on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018.