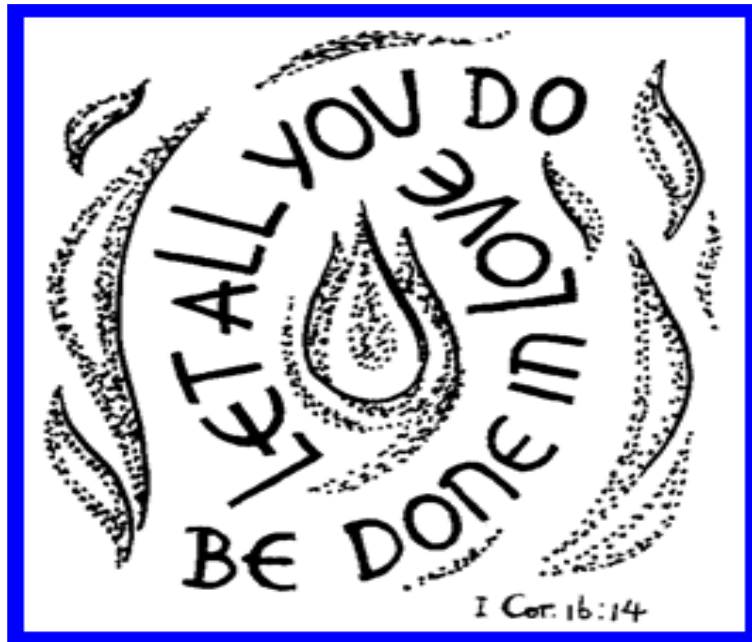


St Edward's Catholic Primary School



Spiritual Development Policy

Presented to Governors: February 2023

Adopted by Governors: February 2023

Review date: February 2025

“Let all you do be done in love” Cor 1 14:16

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 Edward’s 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 are all supported through the opportunities provided with the school and parish.

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 and school/class Masses.
- Parish, by invitations to the clergy, parishioners, governors to assemblies, Christmas celebrations, Easter celebrations and May procession.
- 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.

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 class/school 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 (known as our 5 R's):-

a) **Recognise** – this includes:

- the ability to asking relevant questions;
- the ability to know how to use a variety of sources in order to gather information;
- the ability to know what may count as good evidence in understanding religion(s)
- the ability to draw meaning from significant experiences in their own and others' lives and from religious questions and answers.

b) **Respond** – this includes:

- the ability to draw meaning from artefacts, works of art, poetry and symbolism;
- the ability to interpret religious language;
- the ability to suggest meanings of religious texts.
- the ability to respond to religious ideas, beliefs and questions through a variety of media.
- the ability to debate issues of religious significance with reference to evidence, argument, opinion and statements of faith

c) **Reflection** – this includes:

- the ability to reflect on feelings, experience, attitudes, beliefs, values, relationships, practices and ultimate questions.
- the ability to identify feelings such as love, wonder, forgiveness and sorrow;
- the ability to consider the thoughts, feelings, experiences, attitudes, beliefs and values of others;
- the ability to see the world through the eyes of others, and to see issues from their point of view.

e) **Respect** – this includes:

- the ability to respect the religious symbols they use to celebrate and worship.
- the ability to find similarities between all beliefs.

- the ability to appreciate that others have different beliefs which are important to them
- the ability not to judge others

i) **Resilience** – this includes:

- the ability to maintain a positive spirit even in the face of adversity
- the ability to believe even when faith is challenged
- the ability to “ bounce back “ from a variety of hardships, including illness, poverty, criticism, abandonment, death, fear, anxiety, and depression.

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

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.