

Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College



Spiritual Life Policy 2014

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1

Introduction

The core purpose underlying the spiritual life policy of Cardinal Wiseman Catholic Technology College is to support our students and staff on their faith journey to the Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit; making God known to them and being aware that they are made in His image and likeness. This is most simply expressed in our school mission statement, ‘Forward in Faith’.

Aims for all people of our school community:

- To share the teaching and guidance of the Catholic Church in order to support our spiritual development.
- To be people who live by Christian values, who are aware that they are made in the image and likeness of God and loved by Him. To recognise the dignity of all people regardless of creed or colour and know that the greatest challenge in life is to love unconditionally as we are loved unconditionally.
- To know that the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a real message, relevant to all who wish to live by its teachings.
- To reflect on what it means to be truly human by imitating Christ and following the example of the lives of the saints and other holy people in the tradition of the church.
- To know the difference between right and wrong and to be aware that the Catholic church teaches that our conscience is the voice of God active at the core of our being.
- To be people of reflection, spiritual beings open to the questions of life. To seek the truth at all times using our conscience which is formed by the teaching of the Church.
- To be people of discernment, who, through the prayerful process of reflection and rejection become closer to God and more able to know ourselves more deeply and give ourselves over to the service of God.
- To be prepared to stand up for the weak in society

The practices which will support spiritual development

- To encourage, support and provide opportunities for individual spiritual development through the RE curriculum and Chaplaincy activities, with a particular focus on the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist.
- Provide a permanent sanctuary for prayer and worship in our chapel.
- Create an explicitly spiritual environment in the displays and art work throughout the whole school.
- Provide a caring environment where all students are valued and respected and the Gospel values of love are evident.
- Gather together to worship as a community in masses, assemblies and liturgies. Create opportunities for students to prepare and lead on these whole school events and to share their own beliefs and values.
- The school's Mission Statement and ethos reinforce positive behaviour and a respect for self and others and will be regularly reviewed.
- Emphasise the Christian moral perspective and encourage students to develop their personal moral lives in line with the moral teaching of the Catholic Church founded on the Gospel.
- Christian values will be evident across the curriculum and opportunities for reflection will be present, especially in RE lessons.
- There will be opportunity for prayer and reflection throughout the school day, including the Angelus.
- Have clear policies to reinforce positive behaviour and attitudes.
- The school council will allow for students to express their opinions and take responsibility for their school, allowing them to develop as leaders and having responsibility for others.
- Retreats will be organised for students and staff to reflect on and build on their relationship with God.
- The Chaplaincy staff will provide creative and inspirational opportunities for students to celebrate their faith, through praise and worship groups.
- The students' chaplaincy team, along with the Priestly and lay chaplaincy team will provide leadership and direction for the collective worship in the school.
- Develop a sense of responsibility for our local community by building stronger links with our primary schools and allowing students to prepare and lead worship with the primary students.
- Develop a sense of responsibility for the wider community through charity work and fundraising through events such as Family Fast days.
- Celebrate the achievements of our students and encourage them to use their talents through rewards evening, stars of the week etc.
- Encourage students to express their creativity and imagination.

- Ensure everyone feels respected and part of a community regardless of race, colour, religion, or sexual orientation.
- Create an atmosphere which enables students and staff to speak freely about their beliefs.

Students' development will be evidenced by:

- Creation, participation and support for the prayer life of the school in classroom, informal services, assemblies and formal liturgies.
- Art work and displays which are testament to their spiritual insights and learning.
- The atmosphere of love and care which all members of the school both encounter and offer to others.
- Pupil behaviour and bullying data and pupil voice activities.
- The Friday letter and the staff bulletin which celebrate and mark the particular actions of members of our school community.
- The funds raised for charity and the acts of service undertaken by our school community for others.