



# St. Edward's Primary School

## Policy for Spiritual Development 2021-2022



*"Teaching is a beautiful job; it allows you to see the growth day by day of people entrusted to your care. It is like being parents - at least spiritually" - Pope Francis*

# St Edward's Primary School

## Spiritual Development Policy

### Mission Statement

"Live, Love and Serve."

*At St Edwards we endeavour to develop and care for the whole child through our teaching and sharing of the Catholic faith.*

*We aim to develop an awareness of God's love for each person in the school community, through our work and prayer.*

*We aim to show our love of God in the way we care and value each other and ourselves.*

*In the delivery of the curriculum we aspire to equip children with those skills necessary to become contributing members of society and responsible adults.*

*We recognize and encourage our pupils' individual gifts and talents.*

*St Edward's staff will aim to provide a good quality of education striving to achieve the very highest standards for all its pupils and, at the same time, to develop lively critical minds.*

*We will aim to develop each pupil's appreciation of education as a lifelong and enjoyable process.*

*St Edwards School wishes to work in partnership with the parish and families, local schools and community groups recognizing that only by working together can the school make its contribution towards the development of committed Christians and active members of the Church.*

## **Introduction:**

In contrast to other school policies for specific curriculum areas, this policy relates to the whole life of the school. It is promoted through all the subjects of the curriculum; it reflects our approach to teaching and learning; and its promotion is influenced by the quality of relationships and the experiences of prayer and worship. Spiritual development is intrinsically linked with moral, social and cultural development.

## **Rationale:**

Schools are required 'promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school'

The connection between high standards in the curriculum and effective spiritual development is widely recognised and is evident in many OFSTED and Diocesan inspections.

Spiritual development is at the heart of Catholic education and therefore at the heart of our school: being called to nurture the human wholeness of all our children calls us to ensure that we develop all aspects of our children.

## **Definition of Spiritual Development:**

We believe that spiritual development is a significant aspect of educating 'the whole child'. It relates to the search for meaning and purpose in our existence in God. It is associated with feelings and emotions, and attitudes and beliefs. It is accessible to everyone and is rooted in our Catholic Christian faith.

## **Aims of Spiritual Development in a Catholic Primary School**

- The ability to listen and be still
- The ability to sense the sacred, the holy and our God
- The ability to sense wonder and mystery
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships
- The ability to transcend the mundane
- The ability to reflect and to appreciate beauty

## **Objectives for Spiritual Development:**

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- To develop the ability to use all of one's senses
- To consider the mystery of God, to relate to the person of Jesus and the wonder of God's world
- To find an inner self confidence and peace
- To develop in individuals a self-confidence to express inner thoughts in a variety of ways
- To encourage quiet reflection during a lesson or assembly
- To promote an awareness of and enjoyment in using one's imagination and creativity
- To promote the ability to form good relationships with others

## **Opportunities for Spiritual Development:**

Staff will provide a role model to children by sharing in the joy of discovery and in the wonder of creation. Our enthusiasm for education that truly nurtures human wholeness will be significant in creating the appropriate ethos for the human spirit to thrive.

### **1. Within the curriculum, children will be able to explore:**

- An imaginative approach to God's world
- A spirit of enquiry and open-mindedness
- A recognition of the presence of God everywhere, with no distinction between the sacred and the ordinary

### **2. Opportunities will be provided for children to:**

- Express their creativity and imagination
- Foster a sense of respect for the integrity of each person
- Engage in an atmosphere that encourages them to talk freely about their feelings and beliefs
- Experience a variety of formal, informal and spontaneous prayer, meditation and retreats
- Experience awe and wonder, excitement and enjoyment
- Understand human feelings and emotions
- Experience, silence, stillness and reflection and to learn from reflection
- Develop the skill of journaling and have regular opportunities (especially in KS2) to journal
- Experience and appreciate a range of music, art, literature, designed to 'lift the spirit'
- Participate, as appropriate, in the life of our parish community from which the school is derived

## **Role of Co-ordinator**

The named co-ordinator has responsibility for overseeing the planning, provision and the monitoring and evaluation of spiritual development. The co-ordinator will keep in touch with local, diocesan and national developments and will act in an advisory capacity, supporting and encouraging colleagues. Specifically, the co-ordinator will identify and purchase appropriate resources; identify and plan appropriate staff development and reflection.

## **Responsibilities:**

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that this spiritual development policy is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate governor. The Governing Body will review this policy, formally, every two years from the date of its adoption. Informal review will be on-going and will be the responsibility of the co-ordinator.

This policy has been formally adopted by the Governing Body of St. Edward's. It will be reviewed by the Governors and headteacher in conjunction with the staff two years from the date below.

Date: July 2021

(To be reviewed July 2023)