

**“Each one of you is a child of God” Pope Francis**



**All Saints is educating for Unity, Responsibility,  
Courage, Wisdom and Generosity**

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

*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 personal relationships between teacher and the students, therefore, assume an enormous importance and are not limited to giving and taking.*

**The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium  
no 19**

## **Spiritual Development.**

### **Rationale.**

At All Saints Catholic Primary School we recognize 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 the All Saints 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 fulfillment 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.

*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.*

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### **Evaluation.**

The evaluation of Spiritual Development within All Saints 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:

1. 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.
  
2. A sense of awe, wonder and creativity inspired by:
  - The natural world;
  - Mystery;
  - Human achievement with the arts and science.
  
3. 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.
  
4. 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.

**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 All Saints Catholic Primary School we address spirituality both explicitly and implicitly.

We address spirituality explicitly through:

- The teaching of 'Come and See'.
- Citizenship
- PSHE /SEAL
- Circle time
- Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- Collective Worship and assemblies
- Cross-curricular approaches where appropriate
- Drama
- Music
- Reflections
- Sacramental preparations
- Retreat Days during 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 planned and maintained 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 behavior 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.*

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