

# ST OSWALD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL SPIRITUAL AND MORAL POLICY

## MISSION STATEMENT

**With Christ at the centre of our community,  
our mission is to live, love and learn as Jesus taught us.**



### **Mission Statement**

St Oswald's Catholic Primary School is a Catholic Primary (Voluntary Aided) co-educational school catering for children between the age of 4 and 11 years. We aim to create a happy, secure and caring environment.

### **Aims:**

To share our Catholic faith and show by the way we treat others that we are followers of Jesus.

To create a happy, secure and caring environment.

To place Religious Education at the heart of our curriculum.

To support the faith development of everyone in our school community.

To welcome parents and the community into school and continue to build upon the strong links between home, school and parish.

To show our appreciation of the beliefs and values of other cultures.

To help everyone achieve the very best they can.

To encourage all children to participate in the life of the school to the best of their abilities.

In this way we will truly reflect our Mission Statement:

***'With Christ at the centre of our community, our mission is to live, love and learn as Jesus taught us'***

### **Spiritual Development**

Spiritual development is a process of growth. God comes to meet us through people, places and events, and it is the individual's response to these encounters with God that shape and determine our spiritual nature.

An important part of this development is becoming aware of and reflecting on experiences, and interpreting them in a way that allows self- knowledge, personal views and insights to grow, and applying past experiences to life. This whole area of community and the fostering of good relationships are vital for understanding spirituality in a Catholic school.

We are all made in God's image and likeness; therefore every meeting with someone is an encounter with God and an opportunity for spiritual growth. It is this recognising and responding to God that is a key element in spiritual development.

### **Aims and Purpose**

It is important to state that all members of our school community are at different stages of a faith journey, and that this journey is by no means linear. Spiritual development in our school seeks to support every individual on their spiritual quest and search for God. Some aims for spiritual development in our school are for each child to:

- Acquire insight into their personal existence,
- Make sense of their life experiences,
- Develop the human capacity to go beyond the physical, tangible reality,
- Develop a sense of wonder, awe, reverence, imagination,
- Develop a sense of the presence of God in their lives,
- Contribute towards the creation of a Christ – centred community based on Gospel values.

We also recognise that the school can make a valuable contribution to the spiritual lives of families, the parish, the wider church and the local community.

### **Opportunities for Spiritual Development**

We aim to:

- Provide opportunities for prayer and reflection
- Provide opportunities for experiential techniques such as listening, being still and quiet, perceiving the senses, being aware of the recent moment, imaginary journeys, guided imagery, attention to an object, exploring stories and parables etc.
- Develop an "inner peace"
- Develop a sense of God in their lives
- Deepen knowledge and understanding of the catholic and other major faiths of the world.
- Develop positive relationships in the school community
- Develop a positive self- image and self-esteem in pupils
- Develop the ability to transcend the mundane and be aware of the unseen dimension to life.
- Develop a spirit of enquiry and open-mindedness enhanced by the use of skilful and sensitive questioning by the teacher
- Encourage the search for meaning of life as a spiritual quest
- Develop self-knowledge and values by which to live
- Develop creativity by expressing innermost thoughts, imagination and feelings through art, drama, appropriate music, literature and crafts.
- Develop feelings and emotions by being moved by beauty and kindness, hurt by injustice or aggression, a growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to use such feelings as a source for growth.

### **Moral Development**

Moral development has at its foundation, values. Values are the principles that inform judgements as to what is morally good or bad. Attitudes to other people and their actions is the key part in our decisions as to how we respect others and their actions. Values both inform and influence behaviour and therefore are fundamentally important both to school life and wider society.

It is important that as a school we have clear expectations of morals and values. Each child should:

- Be knowledgeable about standards of right and wrong,
- Be encouraged to develop skills of moral reasoning,
- Be willing to conduct themselves in a responsible manner,
- Be prepared to take responsibility for their own actions.

These core values should not be limited to knowledge of right or wrong or the ability to make moral judgments, but should seek to affect behaviour. The learning of how to make responsible decisions is of paramount importance. Also that respect for life, property and the environment is of extreme importance for a stable society.

### **Aims and Purpose**

At St. Oswald's School, we aim to:

- Provide an ordered environment that fosters constructive relationships between young people and adults.
- Be explicit and coherent about values, planning the best way to communicate these values in our school
- Consciously convey values
- Develop skills that enable young people to make wise decisions and develop acceptable values, attitudes and behaviours

### **Opportunities for Moral Development**

For our school to play this important role in moral development we will try to enable each child to:

- Know what is expected of them,
- Understand why such behaviour is expected,
- Be actively involved in determining the rules they are expected to observe,
- To be led by example by all members of society, especially those in authority both in our school and wider community,
- Be able to make intelligent and responsible moral decisions to situations outside their experience require,
- Have the will to do the "right thing".

### **We will endeavour to do this by**

- Creating and sustaining a welcoming and sympathetic environment that actively provides planned activities to promote social skills.
- Setting set clear rules based on consideration for others. We recognise that responsibility and discipline should be inseparable.
- Using discussion as an opportunity for adults to encourage moral development, based on real life situations with direct relevance to the children. This will allow the children to understand the criteria for making moral judgments and develop attitudes accordingly.

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