

Spiritual Education Policy
"Lighting the flame for life-long learning"

"To encourage the personal, social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of the children within the context of the Catholic ethos, whilst nurturing a respect and understanding of other cultures and beliefs." (School Aim taken from the School Mission Statement)

As teachers, we acknowledge that each child has a spiritual dimension, and that spiritual education helps children to acquire insights into their own personal existence and to make sense of their life experiences.

Aims and Objectives - Intent

We aim to help our children to:

- Develop a sense of awe and wonder, imagination and reverence.
- Reflect on and respond to the presence of God in their lives.
- Develop their human capacity to go beyond physical, tangible reality.
- Become familiar with the life, works and actions of Jesus, the Saints and significant Christians.
- Develop their sense of identity and self worth.
- Hear how people of other faiths respond to the spiritual dimensions of life.

Children will demonstrate qualities according to their age and ability, such as:

- Knowledge of the beliefs, ideas and practices of their own and other major religions.
- Understanding of how people have tried to explain the universe through various myths and stories.
- Personal beliefs and the ability to give some account of them and derive values from them.
- Behaviour and attitudes which show awareness of the relationship between belief and action.
- Personal response to questions about the purpose of life and to experiences like beauty and love, pain and suffering.

Implementation

At English Martyrs' we believe Spiritual development occurs when:

- A teacher fills a child with enthusiasm for learning.
- A teacher creates interest in the pursuit of knowledge and truth.
- A teacher encourages depth and range of discovery.
- Language conveys belief in the learner and the worth of human endeavour.
- Encouragement and praise are given.
- The dignity and confidence of the individual is sustained.
- Understanding of feelings and emotions are developed.

- Time is given for each child to develop their own thoughts and ideas and voice their concerns.

We will promote pupils' Spiritual development by:

- Providing opportunities for pupils to reflect and learn from reflection.
- Developing a climate/ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.
- Taking account of differences and respecting the integrity of others.
- Enabling pupils to make connections between aspects of their learning by encouraging them to ask why, how and where as well as what.
- Using opportunities as they arise during learning activities throughout the day to develop a sense of awe and wonder in the world.
- Providing good role models by 'wondering' aloud at things that create awe.
- Following our Collective Worship policy.

Curriculum Subjects

Spiritual development occurs through the curriculum when a teacher helps children to:

- Appreciate the history and scope of human achievement.
- Know the beauty and potential of language.
- Be sensitive to the subtlety of colour, sound, movement, pattern, order and design.
- Foster knowledge and appreciation of music, drama, art, PE, and all areas of human excellence.
- Consider the complex and sustained working of the natural world.

The opportunity for promoting spirituality occurs in a wide range of curriculum areas. As we follow Come and See there are opportunities to reflect on the teachings and to build spirituality based on those teachings, particularly in the Rejoice week of each topic. We recognise that spiritual development can also be encouraged through a variety of curriculum areas such as RSHE and science. It is important that the spiritual development of learners' filters into all curriculum areas.

The distinctive Catholic nature of our school encourages positive relationships between all. Visits to church, participation in Mass and preparation for First Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation provide opportunities for spiritual development. The school Spirituality Day provides children with opportunities to participate in spiritual and prayerful experiences.

All members of the school community are invited to join in with Collective Worship and they are encouraged to be reverent and respectful. During this time there are opportunities for the children to reflect and respond to scripture and to think about how it affects their lives and the lives of others.