



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

At St Mary's we live and learn sharing God's love

Moral Development Policy

July 2020

'As a Catholic school community, we strive to live as a Christian family showing our love for God in the way we treat each other with dignity and respect and by promoting the development of each child as a unique individual.'

Aims:

It is the aim of this Catholic School to:

- provide children with the knowledge to understand right and wrong and to have respect for themselves and others
- provide an environment that encourages all children to freely choose to do the right thing
- strive to be a community in which the Gospel values of freedom, justice, forgiveness and love flourish
- to reinforce the moral teachings of the Church through a loving and caring community

PUPILS AT ST MARY'S SHOW EVIDENCE OF THEIR MORAL DEVELOPMENT WHEN THEY DISPLAY:

1. The acquisition of knowledge

Children are provided with a wealth of opportunities to become familiar with and use the language and ideas of morality through:

- the 'Come & See' programme as directed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool
- stories from the Gospels, traditional stories, fables, moral tales and dilemmas
- Collective Worship
- Key person time
- the consideration of a 'value of the month' eg respect, tolerance, forgiveness etc (please see annual planner)
- the opportunity to discuss moral issues through cross curricular based work and the programme "Social and Emotional Aspects Learning" (SEAL)
- Assemblies / Key Stage Worship time – which are planned and led by pupils and staff

2. Understanding

Opportunities are provided for all children to develop their personal understanding of the nature and purpose of moral discussion. SEAL time enables children of all ages to speak, listen, interact and share choices and concerns, with the underlying principle of respecting and acknowledging different people's culture, race, sex and viewpoints. This is a time for personal discussion in a trusting environment and has a key role in promoting and enriching the children's understanding of how morality plays a part in the decision making process.

We also have key person time. Every child in school, from EYFS to Y6, is allocated a key person and time to meet as a key person group is built into each teacher's weekly timetable. During this time, it is commonplace for children to discuss problems and incidents and discuss outcomes, in order to

help each other understand how their actions impact on other people in the school and perhaps also, the wider community.

3. Self awareness / positive relationships with others

In order for relationships with others to be successful, our school acknowledges the importance of self image and worth and thus consciously promotes and practises the building of self esteem, self control and responsibility for oneself, by recognising the importance of all aspects of the growth of the individual.

It is encouraged, when inappropriate behaviour occurs, incidents are acknowledged by the children involved, so that they realise there are consequences but also that they are part of a forgiving community.

In order to foster tolerance and respect for other children in our school and in our local community and to encourage truthfulness, compassion and co-operation, the headteacher and staff endeavour to reinforce these qualities whenever opportunities arise. The school's positive approach to the children, our school environment, and the respect of the staff for each other, provide examples of love and care that greatly contribute to the school's ethos.

On a wider scale; national and worldwide issues are referred to at a level appropriate to the age and ability of the children. Discussions regarding global issues like war and peace, human rights, duties and responsibilities, the environment and equal opportunities encourage children to develop personal viewpoints and values, whilst maintaining respect for other people.

4. The ability to act and behave appropriately

At St Mary's it is expected that all children should be given the chance to make informed decisions as to what they hold as right and wrong, why they make these judgements and how they should act.

Positive behaviour is a key priority and as a whole school, we enable our pupils to become increasingly aware of their need to be well informed, to think rationally and impartially and to look for the greater good, before making moral decisions and judgements.

The emphasis throughout our school is to praise and reward 'role model' behaviour and positive attitudes. This way, the children themselves model and endorse responsible actions, self discipline and their freedom of choice based on the moral teaching of Jesus and the Church.

We have a dedicated and highly effective pastoral team in school. Our Learning Mentor and Family Support Worker play a pivotal role in promoting positive behaviours, self confidence, self worth, restorative justice, friendships and relationships.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

At St Mary's we recognise our responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all of our pupils. All aspects of the curriculum reflect the following principles

- Setting suitable learning challenges
- Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils

This is monitored at class, departmental and senior leadership level.

AWARDS

At the end of each academic year we have 2 special end of year awards, 'Overcoming Adversity' and 'Faith In Action'. The chosen children receive a shield of their own which they can keep and then a larger shield is displayed in school and is engraved with the children's names.

Reviewed July 2020.

Next review July 2022