St Paul's Catholic Junior School

Spiritual and Moral Development Policy 2026 - 2027

School Details

Head teacher:	Mrs C O'Callaghan (Interim)
Designated Safeguarding Lead:	Mrs C O'Callaghan
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead(s):	Mrs Lynd, Mrs Clay, Mr Connolly
Link Governor for Safeguarding:	Ms Lisa Kirwen
Chair of Governors:	Mr M Evans
Policy Date:	1st Sep 2026
Policy Review Cycle:	Annual
Next Review Date:	1st Sep 2027

Be Kind. Be Respectful. Be Resilient.

Learning from the example of Jesus, our school will be a place where everyone feels loved, valued and encouraged to be and do the best they can.

At St Paul's Catholic Junior School, we believe that the spiritual and moral development of every child is an important and integral part of their education. Spiritual and moral development underpins children's motivation, imagination, curiosity, relationships and understanding of the world around them.

We recognise that spiritual development is personal and unique to each individual. It involves the search for meaning, purpose and values by which to live, as well as developing an awareness of God, oneself, others and the wonder of creation that is in us all.

As a Catholic school, our understanding of spiritual and moral development is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. We seek to create a community in which the values of love, faith, hope, justice, forgiveness, respect and service permeate every aspect of school life.

We believe that spiritual and moral development is an ongoing, lifelong process. Through the example and guidance of our staff, governors, families and wider school community, we aim to help children grow in their relationship with God, develop a strong moral compass and become compassionate, responsible and respectful members of society.

We also recognise and value the diverse faiths, beliefs, experiences and backgrounds represented within our school community. Children are encouraged to share their experiences and to listen to and respect the beliefs and perspectives of others.

At St Paul's Catholic Junior School, we aim to:

-Foster children's relationship with God and encourage them to recognise His presence in their lives.

-Encourage children to appreciate the beauty and wonder of God's creation and the natural world and recognise their role in stewards of creation.

-Develop children's understanding of themselves as unique and valued individuals, recognising their gifts, talents and potential.

-Develop children's sense of self-worth, identity, dignity and purpose.

-Foster self-esteem, self-discipline, resilience, tolerance and a sense of responsibility towards others.

-Develop children's capacity for empathy, compassion, forgiveness and love.

-Help children understand the difference between right and wrong and develop the confidence to make positive moral choices.

-Encourage children to reflect upon their thoughts, feelings, actions and relationships.

-Provide opportunities for children to develop a sense of silence, stillness, reflection and prayer.

-Develop children's understanding of Catholic moral teaching and Gospel values and encourage them to live out those values through their actions and relationships with others.

-Develop children's understanding and respect for different cultures, faiths, beliefs and worldviews.

-Develop children's sense of responsibility towards their local, national and global communities.

Spiritual Development at St Paul's

Spiritual development is concerned with the development of the whole person and is not limited to participation in religious activities. It involves developing a sense of meaning, purpose, identity, belonging and connection with God, oneself, others and the wider world. For children at St Paul's Catholic Junior School, spiritual development may be experienced through:

-Prayer, worship and developing a relationship with God.

-Religious Education including personal reflection on the scripture.

-The lives and examples of saints and inspirational people.

-Experiences of beauty in creativity, music, art and literature.

-The natural world and God's creation.

-Relationships with others and recognising opportunities to celebrate their own gifts and the gifts of others.

-Acts of kindness, service and compassion.

-Asking and exploring important questions about their experiences and the experiences of others in awe, wonder, joy, love, loss and hope.

Spirituality cannot always be seen or measured. It may be expressed through holiness, imagination, creativity, empathy, wonder, reflection and a sense of connection with something greater than ourselves. As a Catholic school, we particularly seek to help children recognise the presence of God in their lives and to respond to this presence through prayer, worship, reflection and action.

At St Paul's, we aim for children to develop their spirituality:

-Develop knowledge and understanding of the world in which they live.

-Develop an awareness of their own spiritual identity and personal existence.

-Make sense of their own and others' life experiences.

-Develop a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and imagination.

-Appreciate the beauty and complexity of the natural world.

-Develop an awareness of the presence of God in their lives and respond in ways appropriate to their age and understanding.

-Develop their capacity to go beyond the purely physical and material aspects of life.

-Explore questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life.

-Respond thoughtfully to experiences of beauty, love, joy, pain, suffering, loss and hope.

-Recognise their own gifts, talents, achievements and limitations.

-Develop an appreciation of silence, stillness, reflection and prayer.

-Become familiar with the lives, words and actions of saints, significant Christians and other inspirational people.

-Learn about how people of different faiths and beliefs respond to the spiritual dimension of life and recognise both the diversity and similarities between people and their beliefs.

-Develop empathy and respect for the experiences, beliefs and perspectives of others.

Moral Development at St Paul's:

At St Paul's Catholic Junior School, we believe that moral development is an ongoing, lifelong process. We seek to help children understand the difference between right and wrong and to develop the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and skills required to make responsible moral decisions. Our moral education is firmly rooted in the Gospel values and the moral teaching of the Catholic Church. Through the example of Jesus and the teachings of Scripture, children are encouraged to develop a strong sense of justice, compassion, forgiveness, love and respect for others. Spiritual and moral development is embedded throughout the curriculum and life of St Paul's Catholic Junior School.

We believe that moral education is not simply taught through individual lessons. It is modelled and experienced through the relationships, expectations and actions of everyone within our school community. The example set by governors, staff, parents, carers and children plays an important role in helping children develop their moral understanding.

At St Paul's we aim for children to:

-Understand the difference between right and wrong and recognise the consequences of their actions.

-Develop a strong personal sense of morality.

-Understand and use the language and ideas associated with morality.

-Develop their own personal values in relation to themselves and others.

-Understand the importance of human dignity, equality, justice and respect.

-Develop the skills needed to make thoughtful moral decisions and judgements.

-Consider the intentions, motives and attitudes behind their own actions and those of others.

-Develop empathy and compassion for people who may have different experiences, beliefs or perspectives.

-Listen respectfully and with tolerance to the views and beliefs of others.

-Express their own ideas and opinions clearly and appropriately in order to challenge prejudice, discrimination and misunderstanding.

-Develop a sense of responsibility towards their family, school, local community, country and the wider world.

-Put their values into action through kindness, service, forgiveness and respect.

School Ethos and Mission

Our Mission Statement provides the foundation for the values and attitudes that underpin our school community. The atmosphere of the school and the quality of relationships between staff, children and families contribute significantly to children's spiritual and moral development. All members of our school community are expected to model the values and behaviours that we wish our children to develop. Our school values influence the way we treat one another, the expectations we have for behaviour and the decisions we make as a community.

Religious Education

The Religious Education curriculum provides children with opportunities to:

-Develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.

-Explore scripture and the teachings of Jesus.

-Consider moral questions and the teaching of the Church.

-Reflect upon their own beliefs, experiences and values.

-Develop their understanding of prayer and worship.

-Learn about the lives of saints and inspirational Christians.

-Learn about other faiths and traditions.

-Consider important questions about meaning, purpose, relationships and responsibility.

-Understand how faith influences people's beliefs, decisions and actions.

Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy provide regular opportunities for children to:

-Develop their relationship with God.

-Reflect upon their lives, choices and relationships.

-Experience silence, stillness and contemplation.

-Listen to Scripture.

-Explore Gospel values.

-Consider how they can put their faith into action.

-Pray for themselves, others and the wider world.

-Celebrate their achievements and those of others.

-Develop a sense of community and belonging.

The Wider Curriculum

All areas of the curriculum can contribute to children's spiritual and moral development.

-Through reading various texts and expressing their ideas in their writing, our children are able to explore human experiences, emotions, relationships, values and moral choices.

-Art and Music lessons encourage creativity, beauty, imagination, awe and wonder.

-The study of Science encourages children to explore the natural world and develop a sense of curiosity and wonder.

-Through History and Geography, children develop understanding of people, cultures, communities and the world.

-Our PSHE curriculum supports children in developing relationships, personal values, resilience, empathy and responsible decision-making.

-Physical Education lessons and the extra-curricular life at our school develops teamwork, self-discipline, perseverance and respect.

-Citizenship and wider school activities encourage children to understand their responsibilities towards others and the wider community.

Relationships and Behaviour

Children's relationships within school have a significant influence on their spiritual and moral development. Our expectations for behaviour are underpinned by our Catholic values and are reflected in our Relationships Policy. We seek to create a safe, welcoming and inclusive community where children are encouraged to:

-Treat others with dignity and respect.

-Show kindness and compassion.

-Forgive and seek forgiveness.

-Make positive choices.

-Celebrate difference and diversity.

-Stand against prejudice and injustice.

Opportunities for Reflection

Children are given opportunities to discuss matters of personal concern with trusted adults within school. We encourage an atmosphere of openness, trust and respect in which children feel able to express their thoughts, feelings and questions appropriately.

Conclusion

At St Paul's Catholic Junior School, we recognise that spiritual and moral development cannot be separated from the daily life of our school. Every interaction, lesson, prayer, relationship and experience provides an opportunity for children to grow in faith, character and understanding.

Through our Catholic ethos, the example of Jesus, the teachings of the Church and the positive example of the adults within our community, we aim to help every child understand that they are uniquely created and loved by God, that every person has dignity and worth, and that they have a responsibility to love and serve others.

We want our children to leave St Paul's as confident, compassionate and morally responsible young people who are able to reflect deeply, make good choices, respect the beliefs and experiences of others, and live out the Gospel values of love, justice, forgiveness, compassion, service and hope in their everyday lives.