Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Vocational and Cultural Policy

Our Mission Statement:

'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 13:33-34)

Approved by Full Governing Body: 21st April 2021

Signed **Chair of Governors.**

To be reviewed: April 2024, or dependent on any legislative changes

Reviewed by Headteacher March 2024

To be reviewed: March 2026

Safeguarding Statement:

'Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents, governors and volunteers to share this commitment.'

Our Vision

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to encouraging everyone to 'Be the Best They Can Be'

Values and Ethos

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

Spiritual Development

As a Catholic school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Follow the example of Jesus Christ in their daily lives
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life
- Develop an "inner peace"

- Deepen knowledge and understanding of the catholic and other major faiths of the world

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.

We will provide 0pportunities for Spiritual Development by:

- Providing opportunities for prayer, reflection and meditation
- Providing opportunities for experiential techniques such as listening, being still and quiet, perceiving through the senses, being aware of the recent moment, imaginary journeys, guided imagery, attention to an object, exploring stories and parables etc.
- Developing a spirit of enquiry and open-mindedness enhanced using skilful and sensitive questioning by the teacher and the use of 'Philosophy for children'
- Developing creativity by expressing innermost thoughts, imagination and feelings through art, appropriate music, literature and crafts
- Developing feelings and emotions by being moved by beauty and kindness or hurt by injustice or aggression

Moral Development

As a Catholic school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of individuals
- Distinguish between right and wrong and make correct choices
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgements

We will provide opportunities for Moral Development by:

- Ensuring pupils know what is expected of them
- Ensuring pupils understand why such behaviour is expected
- Planning opportunities for pupils to evaluate the school rules and Positive Behaviour Policy
- Consistently modelling and enforcing the behaviour we expect from pupils
- Encouraging pupils to be good role models for others
- Encouraging pupils to follow the positive examples given by good role models in society, especially those in authority both in our school and wider community
- Supporting pupils to reflect on their behaviour
- Planning opportunities for pupils to solve problems though the use of Circle Time
- Promoting British Values across the curriculum

Vocational Development

As a Catholic school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Demonstrate a commitment to the service of God
- Learn from people of the past and present who provide examples of life inspired by Jesus Christ
- Reflect on their vocational role within the community now and in the future
- Know how to proclaim Jesus Christ to others through living out the Gospel values and virtues both at school and at home
- Show service to others by helping those in need in the community

We will provide opportunities for Vocational Development by:

- Planning opportunities for pupils to learn about vocations to the Catholic Church
- Enabling pupils to show service to others by helping those in need in the community, e.g. supporting the local foodbank
- Enabling pupils to take a lead in the Catholic Life of the School to plan opportunities for almsgiving
- Enabling pupils to take role in the life of the school e.g. class responsibilities, playground buddies

Social Development

As a Catholic school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Learn about service in the school and wider community
- Develop an understanding of the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged

We will provide opportunities for Social Development by:

- Promoting Catholic Social Teaching across the curriculum
- Planning opportunities to develop teamwork
- Plan opportunities for pupils to work together in different groups within their class, across the school and with pupils from other schools
- Plan opportunities for pupils to support those in need in the local and wider community
- Plan opportunities for pupils to explore social justice in the context of the school, the wider community and globally

Cultural Development

As a Catholic school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influenced individuals and society
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions

We will provide opportunities for Cultural Development by:

- Exposing pupils to music from different composers, cultures and genres
- Inviting people from different cultures and countries into school
- Enabling pupils to experience live theatre, dance and music performances
- Enabling pupils to take part in live performances
- Exploring aspects of our heritage and the that of other cultures through assemblies e.g. festival days, the patron saints and global events
- Planning opportunities across the curriculum to study literature/authors and art/artists from different cultures
- Opportunities to make and evaluate food from other countries
- Planning opportunities to study the contributions to society that certain famous people have made
- Planning opportunities to celebrate the cultural diversity within our school

This policy should be read alongside the RE policy, Collective Worship policy and RHSE policy.