

Pray, Learn, Achieve and Celebrate Together



Moral Development Policy

A new commandment I give unto you: that you love one another as I have loved you."

John 13:34

Written: March 2021

Review Date: June 2024



Moral development policy

Mission Statement

St Gabriel's is a Roman Catholic Primary School. It is inspired by the example of Christ and the teachings of the Gospel and seeks to develop the spiritual growth of all members of the school.

As a Christian Community we aim to meet the needs of each individual and to promote an active partnership between school, home, parish and the wider community to provide an education which will prepare all children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

What do we mean by Moral Development?

Moral development is about a growing awareness of, and positive response to, the demands of living as individual with others in the community. It involves the distinction between right and wrong, good and evil. Moral Development is concerned with how an individual pupil can best develop their own unique way within our Christian Catholic Community. As a community we aim to:

- uphold respect for the individual.
- strive for a culture which is open, honest and trusting.
- facilitate children with opportunities to consider moral issues.
- are committed to an all inclusive policy.
- consider those less fortunate than ourselves.
- give opportunity to reflect, rejoice and celebrate.

In the Catholic tradition, Spiritual Development and Moral Development are inseparable and interdependent. The educational mission of the Church brings to life Christ's new commandment "that you love one another as I have loved you." (JN13.34). This gospel value is lived out in the daily life of our school in many ways, particularly through our Core values:

- Respect

- Love
- Forgiveness
- Honesty & Courage
- Effort
- Responsibility

At St Gabriel's, our aim is to help our pupils acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong. We will encourage our pupils in their early years by providing them with a moral framework within which to operate and, as they mature, help them to decide what they hold as right and wrong, why they do so and how they should act- that is, that they should behave well, in accordance with a moral code. However, parents are the first teachers of their children and everything the school does in this aspect is subsidiary of this.

How do we encourage the Pupils Moral development?

Through our School Behaviour Policy:

- Giving pupils clear Core Values as basis for behaviour which is promoted consistently through all aspects of school life
- Promoting measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, age and other criteria
- Focusing on positive behaviour strategies
- Rewarding good attitude to learning using our whole school reward system.
- Actively involving pupils in development of class/playground rules
- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their own actions- for example respect for property and care of the school environment
- Sharing with our pupils, as much as possible, the reasons for our decisions, and the principles and consequences which have been taken into account.

Through our Mission Statement and our distinctive Catholic ethos:

- Helping pupils achieve their full potential as unique human beings

- Reflecting on what it means and expressing these thoughts and feelings through, for example, drama, art and writing
- Reflecting on the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching

Through a creative approach to planning:

- Planning creatively around the Religious Education topics
- Giving pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore moral concepts and values.
- Providing pupils with time to reflect on their responsibilities and the role they have in not only school and their families but within the local and wider community
- Having dedicated weeks throughout the year which focus on the wider world- for example Multicultural week
- Providing models of moral virtue through literature, history, science, art, assemblies and collective worship
- Through raising awareness of environmental issues- for example recycling and litter.
- Encourage the children to think for themselves and to recognise that they have and will have choices. These choices will have a direct impact on their lives and the lives of others in the wider community

Through exploring other world faiths:

- Recognising, understanding and respecting the values and ways of life of other world faiths.
- Learning from a member of the faith community during visit to school.

Through supporting charities and those in the parish community:

- Raising money for CAFOD and Nugent Care for example non uniform days, World Gifts etc
- Supporting Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal linking with local secondary schools.
- Responding to events both locally and globally for example Red Nose Day, Children In Need.

Children develop best morally when:

- Respect and tolerance are exemplified by the adult community and by this means exemplified in the child.

- There is an emphasis on turn-taking, sharing, listening, caring, accepting, encouraging, praising, patience and affirming.
- After explanation and negotiation there is a need to conform to agreed standards of behaviour.
- Pupils are offered a Catholic Christian framework through which to help them make informed decisions.

Our daily Collective worship includes prayers of dedication to the way in which we conduct ourselves founded on the knowledge that we are not alone. We ask for help:

Throughout today O Lord, help, me to say
 nothing that will hurt anybody.
 To do nothing that is unkind or harmful.
 To think only the best of other people.
 To say nothing that is best forgotten
 And to treat others as I would like to be
 treated myself.

How do we encourage the pupils' Moral Development?

Pupils who are becoming morally aware are likely to be developing:

- An ability to distinguish right from wrong.
- An ability to think through the consequences of their own and others actions.
- A willingness to express their views on ethical issues and personal values.
- A confidence to act consistently in accordance with their own principles.
- An ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements on moral dilemmas.
- A considerate style of life.
- A respect for others' needs, interest and feelings, as well as their own.
- A desire to explore their own and others' views.
- An understanding of the need to review their values, codes and principles in the light of experience.

The Outcome

As a Catholic community we have responsibility to lead our pupils. At the heart of our thinking and energies is the concept and call for the greater good of all, as a caring Christian Community we give every opportunity to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

“The Lord Jesus came to live among us in order to show us his Father’s love. His ultimate sacrifice testifies to his love for his friends and the Lord’s new commandment is the centre of our faith.

“This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you”

Monitoring and Reviewing

This policy will be monitored by the RE co-ordinator and will be reviewed by the Governing body.

Updated: June 2021

Review: June 2024