

St Lewis' Catholic Primary School



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy (SMSC)

The School Mission Statement

To belong to our school community, to believe in ourselves and Jesus and to become all you are meant to be, following the footsteps of Christ

Signed by:

A.M.Harvey

22.1.26

Head of School

Date:

M. McGarry

22.1.26

Chair of governors

Date:

Rationale

The distinctive nature and religious character of our school presents itself in all aspects of our school life especially in the way we aim to assist the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

In St. Lewis' we believe that education is a means of proclaiming and revealing the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to our children, so that they may develop fully as human beings and discover purpose and meaning in their lives, now and in the future.

Spirituality is concerned with raising and developing an awareness in each person of a sense of God and the way God acts in our world and in our lives.

Social development in St. Lewis' is concerned with leading children to understand that we are made not only for ourselves but to live with, in and through community. Only in community are we able to live out Gospel values. We believe that good relationships which are based on mutual respect and love are the key to a harmonious environment where all can work together towards the common good. We further believe that what is learned in our school community will enable our children to understand the wider community and their Christian role in society.

Cultural development in St. Lewis' is concerned with the cultures and traditions represented in our school, its immediate environment, our country and the world. As Catholics, we value the wide cultural diversity in the worldwide expression of our beliefs within our own faith worldwide. We believe that it is our duty to lead our children, through the development of respect and understanding, to learn to live with a wider variety of people from different national, cultural, racial and religious backgrounds

Aims

- provide an atmosphere of peace, welcome, friendliness, co-operation and tolerance where every person is valued as a unique and special child of God;
- foster caring relationships between all those who are members of our school community;
- provide a high quality of pastoral care;
- provide the opportunity for every child to achieve their true potential through the experiences which they receive and the knowledge they acquire;
- enable children to develop an understanding and respect for different beliefs and cultures.

To achieve these aims we will provide in our implicit and explicit curriculum opportunities for children to:

- learn that we, as Catholics, believe that life is a spiritual journey towards God in which we develop our relationship with Him through prayer and worship;
- explore and question their own experiences and interpretations of them in a secure and loving environment;
- respond to and express their reactions to their own inner experience and that of others in a variety of forms;
- have time for quiet reflection, individually or as a member of a group;
- develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery in the natural world and feel a sense of God in the order and beauty of His Creation;
- develop an appreciation that although we as Catholics believe that we are made in the image and likeness of God different traditions may celebrate the worth of being human in different ways.
- explore and express their innermost thoughts, creativity and imagination and show an awareness and valuing of the feelings and beliefs of others;

- explore how people have expressed their feelings through literature, poetry, art, design, music and dance and learn from this how to express their feelings through their own work;
- come into contact with the beliefs and practices of others through story and festival and by meeting visitors from other faiths;
- develop the beliefs and values of the home and family through the Gospel values and attitudes which we as a school community uphold and foster;
- establish positive school relationships based on tolerance, acceptance, appreciation and respect;
- understand that injustice, aggression or rejection can hurt others;
- think about and reflect on their own lives and explore the lives of people who exemplify qualities which are universally valued.

Planning

In planning lessons, teachers are aware of the need to plan opportunities to develop a wide variety of spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs. A vast majority will be delivered through cross curricular activities as well as specific PSHE, RSHE, RE and Circle Time activities.

Spiritual Development

Pupils' **spiritual development** is shown by their:

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life & their interest in & respect for different people's feelings and values
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences

Promoting Spiritual Development at St Lewis'

- Religious Education Directory informs all R.E. planning
- With You Always First Communion preparation, living parish and school life
- Links to the parish communities: Harvest Festival, Seasonal Concerts, Family Masses, Termly School Mass, etc
- Children given opportunity to explore and develop relationship with God (and question) through Prayer and Liturgy and the everyday life of the school.
- Church visits / Parish Priest visits to school
- Other faiths, visiting speakers or visits to other places of worship and museums
- Ethos, Circle time, SRE, class discussion and responses to global issues
- Residential, day trips, use of school grounds
- Intangible ever present ethos in school... quality of interpersonal relationships and welcome that is commented on by all visitors, staff and parents
- Imagination and creativity is promoted e.g. links to Creative Curriculum and Creative RE
- Use of the ARTs; Art, drama, music and role play in RE lessons
- Use of reflective prayer time
- Use of Spiritual outdoor classroom space
- Use of Liturgical Dance
- Advent workshops, making of Lenten Promises, celebration of Christian and different religious festivals
Major events of our Church calendar alongside the major events of other faiths being studied in school.

Moral Development

Pupils' **moral development** is shown by their:

- Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, and their readiness to apply this understanding in their own lives.
- Understanding of the consequences of their actions.
- Interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues.

Promoting Moral Development at Lewis'

- School rules visible around school and used to reinforce good behaviour
- House points linked to behaviour emphasise good self-control and encourages positive behaviour
- Constant positive reminders of expectations, i.e. right and wrong
- Emphasis on "Following Jesus' Footsteps' This is a mantra for the whole school and encourages good self-discipline and good moral choices
- Circle time promotes the awareness of individual rights and responsibilities.
- Ethos statements published weekly in the school newsletter and on display around school.
- Participation in CAFOD events and charity awareness raising and fundraising
- School buddies as role models for younger pupils
- Everyone treated equally by staff.

As a school we give an assurance that every child can expect to feel:

- safe
- happy
- secure
- valued
- listened to
- prayed for and blessed
- equal in the eyes of each other and their God and when they need to be forgiven.

Social Development

Pupils' **social development** is shown by their:

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- Willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- Engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Promoting Social Development at St Lewis'

- Cultural mix of our school enables our pupils to learn about a variety of cultures through their friendships, work and play.
- We promote good social skills, i.e. role modelling, class discussions on celebrating differences : we are all special, we are all different (made in God's image)
- We have mixed ability groups; we have mixed after school clubs.
- We have a buddy system, and play leaders
- Pupils volunteer to run the school library, school garden, run fundraising events for the school etc.
- Wherever possible conflicts are dealt with at once and the children are asked to reflect on what has happened and how it can be resolved.

- Children are asked to put themselves in the 'other child's shoes'. Link to the Gospel message; 'Love thy neighbour as thyself.'
- Participation in Parish Masses and events.
- Residential in Year 5/6 encourages children to become more self-reliant and independent as well as mix with other groups outside of their usual circle of friends and take on challenges and different roles.
- Opportunities to develop skills within the local and wider community and links with other schools, School Council visits, SVP, CAFOD , sporting links with other schools
- We also gather to remember the fallen of all wars and conflicts on 11 November; 2 min silence is observed, children take part in Remembrance Assembly, prayers are said for both sides and world peace is the focus

Cultural Development

Pupils' **cultural development** is shown by their:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- Understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- Knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- Willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Promoting Cultural Development at St Lewis'

- School Council elections held every year using the a peer voting system; representative are elected and they take on specific roles and they take these roles very seriously
- A wide range of activities are planned within the curriculum and extracurricular sporting events, trips, music and drama productions, choir, etc.
- Inclusion Award winners
- Healthy School Status
- Commonwealth/Olympic Week: every two years depending on the main festival the whole school celebrates these international events and participates in a phenomenally wide range of sporting activities
- ARTs events when Parents invited into school to take part in activities with the children
- Celebrate other cultural events i.e. Chinese New Year, Diwali, etc.
- Circle Times / Ethos – being special, same but different
- Taking part in 'events' with other communities and Catholic community events e.g. Good Shepherd,
- Studying an 'artist' from another country/culture and discussing their influence
- School choir participates in community events e.g. Croft Christmas Light Switch on
- Participation in special projects and Enterprise projects
- Charity work throughout the year which supports local, regional, national and international charities and children having the opportunity to decide which charity and how to raise funds. The children usually support the following charities through the year(s):
- CAFOD (international)
- The Trusell Trust Food Bank
- Good Shepherd Collection
- BBC Children in Need (National)
- Red Nose Day (National/International)

- British Legion Poppy Appeal (National/Regional)
- Breast Cancer Research (National)
- Macmillan Cancer Research (National)
- St Rocco's Hospice
- We also gather to remember the fallen of all wars and conflicts on 11 November; 2 mins silence is observed, children take part in a Remembrance assembly
- Study of other faiths in RE, visit Jewish Centre, Mosque etc.