St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'

Spirituality Policy

Committee responsible for policy	Curriculum and Achievement
Co-ordinator	Fearghal Nash
Statutory/Non-statutory	Non-statutory
Frequency of Review	Free to determine – every 3 years or earlier if required
Date of last review Approved by Staff/ SLT/Committee/FGB	December 2025
Date of next review	December 2028
Purpose of policy	To ensure all staff and pupils have the opportunity for spiritual development
Consultation	Staff

Mission Statement

Our Catholic School exists to provide an Education that is God centred. It is based on the belief that everything of worth comes from God and builds on the faith already established by the family through Baptism.

'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'.

We encourage our children to develop their academic potential and individual talents and everyone in the school to show qualities of honesty, tolerance, forgiveness, caring and patience. All are made welcome and the worth of each is recognised, valued and celebrated.

Introduction

The central focus for spiritual development is based upon the child's relationship with God and his/her understanding of self. At St Edmund's we create opportunities for the children to grow in the knowledge of Christ, to reflect on and appreciate the beauty of God's creation around them.
The Catholic vision of Education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God.

The Catholic school commits itself to the development of the whole person in the awareness that all human values find their fulfilment and unity in Christ. This awareness expresses the centrality of the human person in the educational project of the Catholic school, strengthens its educational endeavour and renders it fit to form strong personalities.

The Catholic School on the Threshold of the Third Millennium (1997)

This vision inspires and encourages the beliefs and values that are lived out in the daily life of the Catholic school. Within this vision, spirituality is very much a journey of formation involving every member of the school community, together with a pupil's family and parish community.

Aims and Objectives

Aims

In the light of our Mission statement, at St Edmund's we aim to:

- Celebrate and develop the spirituality of each person in our community.
- Develop the understanding that each individual is on a journey of faith and that each person is at a different stage on that journey.
- Understand that spiritual does not just equal religious but in our context we celebrate the personal spirituality through rites and traditions of the Catholic Church as our religious context.
- Include all our school community, through making sure everyone feels that they can participate in so far as they can.

Objectives

The objectives for developing spirituality at St Edmund's are:

- To create periods of silence within the whole curriculum.
- To create opportunities for prayer (both private and group based)
- To provide periods for collective worship (within individual classes, key stages and whole school)
- To encourage the children to embrace and reflect on the big questions in their lives
- To provide shared liturgies with parents/carers and the wider parish community.
- To ensure that teachers know that children are making progress in this area as they become more confident individuals and sensitive towards the needs of others.

Organisation, monitoring and evaluation.

- The R.E. team arre responsible for ensuring that spirituality of the all children is developed throughout the school. The head teacher, deputy and other subject coordinators have a responsibility for ensuring that opportunities for spiritual development are explored in other subject/school areas.

Fostering spirituality across the curriculum

Spirituality should be a central feature of our school:

A Christian education has as its principal purpose this goal: that the baptised, while they are gradually introduced to the knowledge of the mystery of salvation, become ever more aware of the gift of Faith they have received, and that they learn in addition how to worship God the Father in spirit and truth.

Declaration on Christian Education - Gravissimum Educationis Pope Paul VI 1965

When planning work in other areas of the curriculum e.g. history, maths, ICT, these questions are considered:

1. Where is God in this theme?
2. How can I present this material in a way which offers children opportunities for Spiritual development?
3. How can I structure learning experiences to encourage this?
4. Where does it link with the R.E. curriculum?

Opportunities and strategies for spiritual development.

- Within curriculum subjects: we develop moments, topics, etc within any specific subject to promote spiritual development. This is promoted in subject policies, school action plans and in the way staff new to our schools are helped through specific induction to take ownership of this distinctive element within our school.

- Developing appropriate skills: ensuring that questioning, reflection and self-awareness are also encouraged.

- Offering moments to celebrate our spirituality together: including through liturgy and prayer, and in our parish and wider community relationships.

- By the physical environment and institutional structure.

1. The quality of the environment as a sign of our Christian care for creation etc.
2. Display, religious artefacts, signs and symbols, a prayer corner in each room etc.
3. Documentation, forms, notepaper school signs that highlight and celebrate at the spiritual nature of our school.
4. An open invitation to all to share in the school's spiritual life through shared liturgy, assemblies, reconciliation services etc.