

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School



Spiritual Development Policy

September 2026

Approved by Governors: September 2026

Review Date: September 2028

Signed by the Chair of Governors :

Signed by the Headteacher :



Our Mission

At St John Vianney Catholic Primary School:

Together, nurtured in God's love, we grow, achieve and belong



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement



Together, nurtured in God's love, we grow, achieve and belong

Together we grow in our love for Jesus
and one another

Together we aspire to achieve the very
best in all that we do

Together we belong to the community
and share our gifts with everyone



Our Aims:

- At the heart of our school is Christ, whose example guides us to live out Gospel values each day.
- In the spirit of Christ, we build strong connections with others, showing compassion and respect as we promote peace and fairness in all we do.
- We create a caring and inclusive environment where every child is encouraged to develop, achieve and shine.

Definition

Spiritual Development helps pupils gain insight into their personal everlasting value and it is usually stimulated and facilitated by personal reflection. 'Spiritual' is not always synonymous with 'religious' - all areas of the curriculum and school life may contribute to pupils' spiritual development.

The main theme of spiritual development is how a child acquires personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion and whether life has purpose. Personal and social behaviour questions are also at the heart of a child's existence and have a part to play in spiritual development. It is therefore about what a school provides through its Curriculum, Collective Worship and through its ethos and climate – to help pupils make sense of these questions and to form responses to life and to various experiences they may have.

Spiritual development relates to and is intertwined with the educational mission of the Church and is rooted in Christ's mission 'that all may have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10). This involves the ongoing development of the entire potential of each individual, made in the image and likeness of God.

A working definition of spiritual development has been provided by Ofsted:

- The development of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us.
- A developing understanding of feelings and emotions which causes us to reflect and learn.
- A developing recognition that beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire or guide us in life.

At St John Vianney Catholic Primary School, spiritual development is at the heart of all we do. Spiritual development pervades all subject areas and the daily life of the school.

Characteristics of Spirituality

Pupils who are developing spiritually are likely to be developing some or all of the following characteristics:

- A set of values, principles and beliefs which inform their perspective on life and patterns of behaviour.
- An awareness and understanding of their own and others' beliefs.
- A respect for themselves and others.
- A sense of empathy with others, concern and compassion.
- An increasing ability to reflect and learn from reflection.
- An ability to show courage in defence of their aims, values, principles and beliefs.
- A readiness to challenge all that would constrain the human spirit.
- An appreciation of beauty, truth, love, goodness, order and mystery.

- A respect for insight as well as knowledge and reason.
- An expressive and/or creative impulse.
- An ability to think in terms of the whole.
- An understanding of feelings and emotions and their likely impact.

Promoting Spiritual Development

In order to encourage pupils' spiritual development at St John Vianney Catholic Primary School:

- Pupils are given the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs and the way in which they impact on people's lives.
- Pupils are encouraged to explore what animates themselves and others.
- Pupils are encouraged to reflect and learn from reflection.
- Pupils are given opportunities to understand human feelings and emotions.
- We develop a climate and ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.
- We accommodate difference and respect the integrity of individuals.
- Teaching values pupils' questions and gives them room for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns.
- Learning enables pupils to make connections between aspects of learning and relate learning to a wider frame of reference.
- We monitor the success of provision in simple and pragmatic ways.

Pupils' spirituality is promoted and developed through the entire educative process.

The Distinctive Nature of Our School

The ethos at St John Vianney Catholic Primary School encourages the development of positive relationships with all members of the school community. We work to encourage a culture of mutual care within our school family. Visits to church, participation in Mass, prayer and liturgical celebrations provide opportunities for spiritual development. Preparation for the Sacraments also provides opportunities for the promotion of spiritual development on a personal basis.

Curriculum Subjects

The opportunity for promoting spiritual development arises in a wide range of curriculum areas. Religious Education is seen as the prime curriculum opportunity for promoting spiritual development. St John Vianney Catholic Primary School recognises that spiritual development can also be encouraged through PSHE, Literacy, Science and the wider curriculum. Spiritual development filters into all curriculum areas and should not be left solely to Religious Education.

Collective Worship

There are a variety of opportunities for Collective Worship throughout the school week. Whole-school, class and pupil-supported worship enable children to pray, reflect and celebrate together. Prayer is an important part of our day and children are encouraged to be reverent and respectful.

Resources

There is a wide variety of resources available to provide ideas and assistance with spiritual development including books, Bibles, posters, music, CAFOD resources and Catholic Social Teaching materials.

The RE Subject Leader and Headteacher are available to support staff.

Development

A copy of this policy is available for all staff to read and will be reviewed within the cycle of policy reviews for the school. Feedback will be invited from staff and governors. The impact of this policy will be evident in the way in which our children develop a growing awareness of and positive response to the demands of living in today's world.