

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School



Moral Development Policy

Approved by Governors: September 2026

Review Date: September 2028

Signed by the Chair of Governors :

Signed by the Headteacher :



1. Mission Statement

‘Together, Nurtured in God’s Love, we Grow, Achieve and Belong’.

At St John Vianney Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child is created in the image and likeness of God and is nurtured and guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our Catholic ethos promotes the development of the whole child and encourages pupils to become caring, respectful, responsible and compassionate members of society. Moral development is a key aspect of our mission and supports children in understanding the difference between right and wrong, making ethical choices and acting with integrity. This reflects the school's commitment to supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through a curriculum and ethos rooted in Gospel values.

2. Rationale

Moral development helps children acquire the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and behaviours necessary to make responsible decisions and live positively within their communities. It enables pupils to:

- Develop a clear understanding of right and wrong.
- Recognise the consequences of their actions.
- Build a personal moral framework based on Gospel values.
- Respect the dignity and rights of others.
- Contribute positively to society.
- Demonstrate honesty, fairness, compassion and justice.

As a Catholic school, we seek to nurture moral development through the example of Christ's commandment to "love one another" and through daily opportunities to practise forgiveness, respect, responsibility and service.

3. Aims

The school aims to:

- Promote Gospel values throughout all aspects of school life.
- Encourage pupils to develop a strong sense of personal responsibility.
- Foster respect for themselves, others and God's creation.
- Develop pupils' understanding of justice, fairness and equality.
- Enable children to make thoughtful and informed moral decisions.
- Encourage pupils to reflect on their behaviour and learn from their experiences.
- Promote positive relationships based on kindness, empathy and forgiveness.
- Support pupils in becoming active and responsible citizens.
- Encourage respect for people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds.

4. Objectives

Through moral development, pupils will:

Knowledge and Understanding

Develop an understanding of:

- The importance of rules, laws and responsibilities.
- The values of honesty, integrity, fairness and truthfulness.
- The rights and responsibilities of individuals within communities.
- The principles of justice, equality and human dignity.
- The teachings of Jesus and Catholic Social Teaching.

Skills

Develop the ability to:

- Make informed and responsible choices.
- Reflect on moral issues and dilemmas.
- Resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Consider the impact of actions on others.
- Express and justify opinions respectfully.
- Show empathy and compassion.

Attitudes and Values

Develop:

- Self-respect and self-discipline.
- Respect for others and their beliefs.
- A willingness to forgive and seek forgiveness.
- Concern for those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.
- Commitment to truth, justice and the common good.

5. Promoting Moral Development

Moral development is promoted through:

Catholic Life and Religious Education

Pupils are encouraged to:

- Explore Gospel teachings and Catholic values.
- Reflect upon moral choices through scripture and prayer.
- Participate in liturgies, assemblies and acts of worship.
- Learn about Catholic Social Teaching and social justice.

Curriculum Opportunities

Across the curriculum pupils will:

- Discuss moral and ethical issues.
- Explore themes of justice, responsibility and respect.
- Learn about different beliefs, cultures and viewpoints.
- Consider the impact of human actions on communities and the environment.

Personal Development

Through PSHE, RSE and wider school experiences pupils will:

- Develop self-awareness and emotional literacy.
- Learn strategies for positive relationships.
- Understand rights and responsibilities.
- Explore issues such as bullying, online safety and discrimination.

Behaviour and Relationships

The school's behaviour routines promote:

- Respectful conduct.
- Personal responsibility.
- Restorative approaches.
- Recognition and celebration of positive behaviour.
- Reflection upon mistakes and opportunities for reconciliation.

Positive relationships between adults and children provide a model of fairness, respect and integrity.

6. Characteristics of Morally Developing Pupils

Pupils who are developing morally are likely to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the difference between right and wrong.
- Respect for others' feelings, beliefs and needs.
- A willingness to take responsibility for their actions.
- The ability to consider consequences before acting.
- A commitment to fairness and justice.
- Confidence to stand up for what is right.
- Respect for rules and the law.
- An understanding that moral issues can sometimes be complex.
- Compassion towards others.
- A desire to contribute positively to their community.

7. British Values

The promotion of moral development supports the Fundamental British Values of:

- **Democracy** – valuing pupil voice and participation.
- **Rule of Law** – understanding the importance of rules and laws.
- **Individual Liberty** – making informed choices responsibly.
- **Mutual Respect** – valuing others and their contributions.
- **Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs** – respecting diversity within society.

8. Equal Opportunities

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that all pupils are treated fairly and with dignity regardless of:

- Age
- Disability
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic background

The school actively challenges discrimination and promotes equality, inclusion and respect for all.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure the policy reflects the Catholic ethos of the school.
- Monitor implementation and effectiveness.
- Support the school's commitment to moral development.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Lead the implementation of the policy.
- Promote a culture that reflects Gospel values.
- Ensure moral development is embedded across school life.

Staff

All staff will:

- Model high standards of behaviour and conduct.
- Promote moral values through teaching and relationships.
- Provide opportunities for moral reflection and discussion.
- Apply school expectations consistently.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to:

- Support the school's values and expectations.
- Promote positive moral development at home.
- Work in partnership with the school.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Respect themselves and others.
- Take responsibility for their actions.
- Demonstrate kindness, honesty and fairness.
- Contribute positively to the school community.

10. Monitoring and Review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through:

- Pupil voice activities.
- Behaviour and safeguarding records.
- Curriculum monitoring.
- Learning walks and observations.
- Feedback from pupils, parents, staff and governors.