

The Trinity School

Spiritual development Policy

Mission Statement.

1. At the Trinity Catholic Primary School, through the love of the Father and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus by showing love, respect and forgiveness to everyone and everything, in all that we say and do.
2. We develop in all children a love of lifelong learning, empowering them to take on the challenges and opportunities of life.
3. We work in partnership with our school family and the wider community to create a better future for all.

We believe that all children have a natural need for spiritual development which should figure in the structure of their education. The Trinity School is denominational, with a specifically Roman Catholic ethos; but we believe that “spiritual development” is not defined or constrained solely by the forms, practices and cultural expressions of catholic tradition.

We believe all areas of the curriculum may and should contribute to the child’s spiritual development, encouraging an awareness and love for the non-material aspects of life and reality.

Spiritual development entails the growth of the **individual’s** personal reactions, values, beliefs and sense of purpose in life, and so necessarily our process of education must be geared to encouraging a **personal** response.

Over and above satisfying a “natural need for spiritual development” using general curriculum materials, in a specifically Roman Catholic school we would seek to enlarge the child’s opportunities for spiritual growth by giving them access to the spiritual riches of the centuries of Catholic tradition.

Practice

Developing a child's spirituality is the responsibility of the whole school community. In The Trinity, we address spirituality **explicitly** through:

- The teaching of 'Come and See'
- Collective Worship
- PSHE lessons
- Following the Code of Conduct
- Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- All curriculum subject areas - where the content is suitable
- Drama
- Music
- Reflections
- Assemblies
- Residential Visits
- The teaching of Other Faiths

We also develop spirituality implicitly through:

- Actions
- Relationships between staff, children and other adults
- Unspoken expectations
- The building and maintaining of our school ethos led by our Mission Statement
- Interaction between all members of the school community

Opportunities for spiritual development will take the form of highlighting opportunities within every aspect of school life. It is recognised that 'Come and See' provides a wealth of 'opportunity' for every child to develop their sense of self within the world.

Evaluation

In The Trinity School we evaluate a child's spiritual development by the extent to which the school provides the opportunities for pupils:

- To acquire insights into their personal experience
- To make sense of their life experiences
- To develop a sense of awe, wonder, reverence and imagination
- To develop a sense of the presence of God in their lives
- To reflect on and respond to this presence
- To become familiar with the life, words and actions of Jesus
- To hear how people of other faiths respond to the spiritual dimension of life

We aim to provide children with the abilities to promote their spirituality by demonstrating activities such as:

- Collective Worship
- Personal Prayer and reflections
- Writing prayers for different occasions
- Celebrating the feast days of the Church's year
- Developing the ability to give some account of personal belief and its importance to the child.
- Basic knowledge of the beliefs and practices of major world religions