



In God's love we believe and achieve



St. Michael's

Catholic Primary School

Moral Development Policy

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Mission Statement

“In God's love we believe and achieve”

As a welcoming Catholic community we will;

- **Follow in the footsteps of Jesus**
- **Deliver the best possible education for all of our children**
- **Value and love each other in our school and our community**
- **Provide an inclusive environment where everybody reaches their full potential**

Rationale

At St. Michael's we recognise that Moral Development is an intrinsic part of every child's education. It allies with a holistic view of child education and its promotion provides a framework for children to build their own understanding of the world and to make suitable decisions. In our school we view moral education as a process of decision-making based on conscience, self-awareness, knowledge and freedom of responsibility.

Our understanding of morality is rooted in the willingness of an individual to see his or her own good in relation to that of the common good:

"The Lord Jesus came to live among us in order to show us the Father's love. His ultimate sacrifice testifies to his love for his friends. And the Lord's new commandment is at the centre of our faith: 'This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you'. The 'as' is a model and a measure of Christian love."

(The Religious Dimension of Education in the Catholic School, para 85)

We therefore acknowledge that our approach to moral development will be a process that allows each person to gain a sense of the greater good and of what is right and wrong. We endeavour to promote an awareness of conscience, informed by discussion and reflection. It is thus, important to make our children aware of the scope and complexity of morality and its consequent decision-making challenges. Paramount is the need to be well informed, to think rationally and impartially across the curriculum about moral issues and experience the use of values in the decision-making process.

Practice

Developing each person's morality is the responsibility of the whole school community. Moral Development is made through the planned and hidden curriculum. In other words, in St. Michael's we address spirituality both explicitly and implicitly.

We address Morality explicitly through:

- the teaching of 'Come and See'
- Collective Worship
- The teaching of our Mission Statement

- RSHE
- Following the Code of Conduct
- Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- Cross-curricular approaches where appropriate
- Drama
- Music
- Reflections
- Assemblies
- Liturgical celebrations
- Regularly planned visits to church
- Residential visits
- The teaching of other Faiths
- Extra-curricular activities

We address morality implicitly through:

- actions
- relationships and personal interactions, both individually and en masse
- school rules and routines and how they are addressed
- the behaviour policy and code of conduct
- unspoken expectations expressed in tone of voice, posture, facial expressions, etc
- the living-out of our school ethos led by our Mission Statement
- the planned and maintained environment throughout the school

Planning these opportunities for moral development takes the form of highlighting appropriate occasions within every aspect of school life. It is recognised that 'Come and See' provides a wealth of opportunity for staff and children to develop their sense of self within the world, and additionally, RSHE provides specific opportunities for all to explore moral decisions and experience free choice motivated by knowledge and conscience.

Evaluation

The evaluation of moral development within St. Michael's must be of a qualitative nature which impacts upon the school ethos and the maturation of the individual. It is measured by the extent to which the school provides:

- a secure community in which the Gospel-spirit of freedom, justice and love permeates every aspect of its life and work

- opportunities to develop a personal sense of morality in relation to self, others, local, national and global issues
- opportunities to decide what each holds as right and wrong, and the ability to voice and act out that belief appropriate to the maturity of the individual
- opportunities to consider questions of intention, motivation and attitude
- opportunities for choice and decision-making
- opportunities for all to know about, understand and discuss the moral teaching of the Church, again appropriate to age

We endeavour to provide children with the abilities to promote their morality by demonstrating qualities such as:

- knowledge of the language and ideas of morality and, increasingly how these differ from other kinds of statements, logical or factual
- understanding of the nature and purpose of moral discussion, with the desire to persuade, combined with respect for other's viewpoints
- personal values in relation to the self, to others, locally, nationally and globally
- the disposition to act and behave in accordance with the values they learn, including the skills of making moral decisions and forming moral judgements

(Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development, Feb 1994)

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed on a 2 year cycle..

Reviewed by Mike Volynchok on behalf of the Governing body October 2023

Signed Copy available from the school office.

