

St. Francesca Cabrini Primary School

Spiritual Development Policy



'Education of the Heart'

Respect-Love-Trust-Prayer-Excellence



St Francesca Cabrini Primary School

Policy for Spiritual Development

The Governors and staff attach the utmost importance to the Spiritual Development of all pupils. We believe the school is a spiritual place. The aim of this policy is to maintain and further improve the spirituality of St Francesca Cabrini School.

At St Francesca Cabrini School we aim to cultivate in all pupils from Nursery Class onwards:

- A sense of the wonder of their existence and each person's uniqueness;
- An understanding of the important part they play in the world created for them – a world of beauty and diversity;
- An ability to understand their relationships with others.

In all our teaching and experience we give the pupils, we shall give them opportunities to:

- Think about their lives;
- Develop their capacity to think, plan, act, assume responsibility, make decisions and choices;
- To reflect on the values and beliefs promoted in the school mission statement.

We shall provide a rich experience through a well-planned and engaging curriculum that challenges them to think critically and that offers a good and civilised environment.

Teachers will provide excellent role models of living and behaviour.

Relationships with pupils will be built on mutual respect and trust. The core values of love, trust, respect and a dedication to prayer and excellence will permeate the whole life of the school, in the playground, classroom, staffroom, and governors and staff meetings.

We believe the effective teaching of the 'Come and See' scheme is a wonderful gateway into Spiritual development. We at St Francesca Cabrini School will ensure that Religious Education underpins the whole curriculum.

Play

In delivery of the curriculum we will use 'play' for very young children which will excite their curiosity, enrich their imagination, engage their willingness to try new things, encourage them to adapt to roles and perform, to problem solve, to work collaboratively as well as independently with confidence, resolve dilemmas to make sense of what is strange and perplexing and to come to terms with aspects of human action and behaviour.

Drama

As pupils grow we will use drama to enable them to put great issues and current affairs under a microscope, to consider values and beliefs and to be reflective about themselves, their place in the world and how others may feel about the issues being explored. They will understand that we may have differences of opinions or approach issues in a different way.

Story and Literature

Story will be used to develop the child's understanding of the nature of human goodness and aspiration. Story is at the heart of children's learning. It gives shape, form and substance to spiritual issues. It offers grounds for endless reflection, for argument, speculation and resolution.

Effective use of story and literature will be seen in assemblies, house meetings, teaching religious education and across the wider curriculum and will be used where possible to inspire art, music and drama.

Art, Dance and Music

We believe that the aesthetic arts, dance and music have an important part to play in the Spiritual development of pupils and will enable them to express their feelings and emotions, their personal response to experiences, their perceptions of the lives and destinies of those around them.

Prayer Life of the School and Collective Worship

“Collective Worship the celebration of the Sacraments, the example of the school community, all contribute to the spiritual development of pupils”. *Bishop Vincent Nichols*

Prayer is central to the life of St Francesca Cabrini School. We shall provide regular opportunities in the class room for prayer in a tranquil and appropriate setting.
(See Collective Worship Policy)

Assemblies

Assemblies will provide opportunities for quiet reflection and prayer. The substance of the Act of Worship will be relevant, understandable, attractive and a positive for pupils. Story, drama, music, creative arts will be used appropriately to meet the needs of the pupils at their stage of development.

Staff Spirituality

The Spirituality of the staff will be developed through in-service training. The biennial Mission Day will be the major opportunity to come together and reflect on the school's Mission Statement and Core Values.

In service training will emphasise the vocation of the teacher and the response we as teachers make to the 'call to serve' both pupils and the wider school community. Regular review of

the Mission Statement and renewed awareness of its core values will be a feature of all in-service training.

Monitoring the Policy

The Headteacher and Governing Body will monitor the Spiritual Development Policy by:

- Regularly visiting the school, classes, assemblies, Masses and celebrations.
- Through discussion with individual staff teaching and non-teaching.
- Inviting comments from parents, teachers and parents.

Ratified by the Governing body: Spring 2018

Policy review date: Autumn 2022