



**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary  
School, Leigh**

*Love Jesus*

*Love Learning*

*Love Life*

*"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."*

# Policy for Moral Development

Governor responsible: Fr. C Fealey

Last reviewed: Autumn 2015

## Mission Statement

*Love Jesus  
Love Learning  
Love Life*

*“I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.”*

*(John 10:10)*

### What do we mean by Moral Development?

Moral Development is about a growing awareness of, and positive response to, the demands of living as an individual with others in the community. It involves the distinction between right and wrong, good and evil. Moral Development is concerned with how an individual pupil can best develop their own unique way within our Christian Catholic community.

In the Catholic tradition, Spiritual Development and Moral Development are inseparable and interdependent. The educational mission of the Church brings to life Christ's new commandment *“that you love one another as I have loved you”* (Jn 13.34). This gospel value is lived out in the daily life of our school in many ways including:

-  forgiveness
-  freedom
-  respect
-  tolerance
-  relationships

At St Joseph's, our aim is to help our pupils acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong. We will encourage our pupils in their early years by providing them with a moral framework within which to operate and, as they mature, help them to decide what they hold as right and wrong, why they do so and how they should act – that is, that they should behave well, in accordance with a moral code. However, parents are the first teachers of their children and everything the school does in this aspect is subsidiary to this.

### How do we encourage the Pupils' Moral Development?

Through our School Behaviour Policy:

- giving pupils a clear moral code as a basis for behaviour which is promoted consistently through all aspects of school life
- promoting measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, age and other criteria
- focusing on positive behaviour strategies
- rewarding expressions of moral insights and good behaviour
- actively involving pupils in development of class/playground rules

- encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their own actions – for example respect for property and care of the school environment
- sharing with our pupils, as much as possible, the reasons for our decisions, and the principles and consequences which have been taken into account

Through our Mission Statement and our distinctive Catholic ethos:

- helping pupils achieve their full potential as unique human beings
- revisiting the mission statement at the start of each year, reflecting on what it means and expressing these thoughts and feelings through, for example, drama, art and writing
- reflecting on the values which Christ expressed in his life and teaching

Through a creative approach to planning:

- planning creatively around the Come and See topics
- giving pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore moral concepts and values
- having dedicated weeks throughout the year which focus on the wider world – for example *Cafod – Turn Sweets into Smiles, Red and Green Day and Harvest Fast Day*
- providing models of moral virtue through literature, history, science, art, assemblies and collective worship
- through raising awareness of environmental issues - for example recycling and litter

Through exploring other world faiths:

- recognising, understanding and respecting the values and ways of life of other world faiths
- learning from a member of the faith community during visit to school
- visiting places of worship

Through supporting charities and those in the parish community:

- raising money for CAFOD and Nugent Care - for example buying Christmas gifts for less fortunate children in the diocese, making a peace chain, non uniform days and World Gifts
- supporting Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal (bi-annually)
- distributing harvest food parcels to the elderly in our parish
- responding to events both locally and globally – for example The Air Ambulance Service

Children develop best morally when:

- respect and tolerance are exemplified by the adult community and by this means exemplified in the child
- there is an emphasis on turn-taking, sharing, listening, caring, accepting, encouraging, praising, patience and affirming
- after explanation and negotiation there is a need to conform to agreed standards of behaviour
- pupils are offered a Catholic Christian framework through which to help them make informed decisions

Pupils who are becoming morally aware are likely to be developing:

- an ability to distinguish right from wrong
- an ability to think through the consequences of their own and others actions
- a willingness to express their views on ethical issues and personal values
- a confidence to act consistently in accordance with their own principles
- an ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements on moral dilemmas
- a considerate style of life
- a respect for others' needs, interests and feelings, as well as their own
- a desire to explore their own and others' views
- an understanding of the need to review their values, codes and principles in the light of experience

### **Monitoring and Reviewing**

This policy will be monitored annually by the RE co-ordinators and will be reviewed by the Governing body.