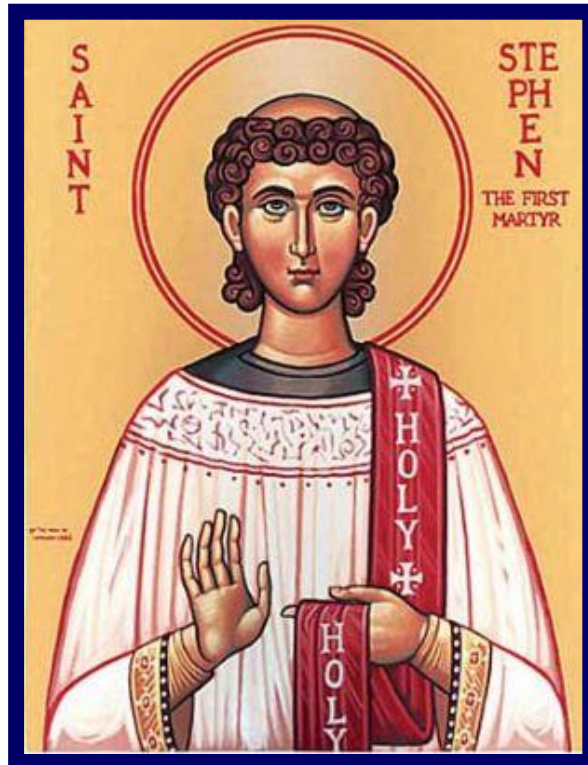


ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Spiritual Development Policy 2017

Working together to succeed through faith in Jesus Christ

Rationale

Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence. It is concerned with how the individual acquires personal beliefs and values. It questions whether life has purpose and is the basis for personal and social behaviour questions, which are at the heart and root of existence. It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, the valuing of a non material dimension to life and imitations of an enduring reality. Spiritual development is vital to the holistic development of all pupils. It seeks to foster curiosity without which there would be no motivation to learn, self-understanding and relationships with other people without which we cannot function in society, a sense of awe, wonder and creativity and the search for means and purpose in life.

Aims

At St Stephen's Catholic Primary School, we believe that spiritual development is rooted in Christ's mission, "that all may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10). This involves the ongoing development of the entire potential of each individual made in the image and likeness of God and finding fulfilment in God alone.

Pupils' spirituality is promoted and developed through the entire educative process but especially through the distinctive Catholic nature of the school, the curriculum - particularly Religious Education and Collective Worship.

We aim to develop spirituality through:

- The development of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us which are underpinned by Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Developing understanding of feelings and emotions which causes us to reflect and to learn.
- Pupils developing recognition that their insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire or guide them in life.

Objectives

Opportunities for the promotion of spiritual development at St Stephen's Catholic Primary School include:

- Daily acts of collective worship.

- Curriculum provision particularly Religious Education, PHSE, Relationships and Sex Education and Circle time.
- Promoting curriculum opportunities which embrace awe and wonder and enable pupils to reflect upon creation and the beauty and goodness of God.
- Giving pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs and the way in which they impact peoples' lives.
- Supporting and developing children's' religious beliefs as we move forward in our journey of faith in ways which are personal and relevant to them.
- Encouraging pupils to explore and develop what animates and motivates themselves and others.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and learn from reflection.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they affect people and how an understanding of them can be helpful.
- Developing a climate and ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.
- Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals.
- Monitoring in simple, pragmatic ways, the effectiveness of what is provided and assessing resource and training implications.
- Promoting teaching styles which:
 - value pupils' questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns;
 - enable pupils to make connections between aspects of their learning;
 - encouraging pupils to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference by asking 'why', 'how', 'where' and 'what' questions.

Reviewed Autumn 2017
Next Review date Autumn 2018