

St. Paul & St. Timothy's
Catholic Infant School



Love - Learn - Believe - Achieve

Policy for Spiritual Development

Current Leader: Mrs Reichinger

Updated January 2026

Review Schedule: Annual



St. Paul and St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School

Mission Statement

Love, Learn, Believe, Achieve

At St. Paul and St. Timothy's Catholic Infant School we celebrate the individual differences and gifts that God has blessed each and every one of us with.

*Education "is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full."
The Catholic ethos, "needs to inform every aspect of school life."*

(Pope Benedict XVI)

We believe each new day brings the opportunity to express our love for God and one another. We provide a supportive, yet challenging, learning environment where each individual is able to develop their abilities and gifts. Our school is a place where children and adults can express their belief in God; develop belief in themselves and others. We believe everyone in our school community can achieve, whatever their ability. Each achievement is as unique as each individual and all are celebrated. We aspire to equip all in our school community to proclaim the Good News and "live life to the full".

Rationale

At St Paul & St Timothy's Catholic Infant School we recognise that Spiritual Development is an intrinsic part of every child's education. It allies with a holistic view of child education. 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.

Aims

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.

We therefore acknowledge that our approach to spiritual development, for all members of our community, must be a sensitive one which allows for enquiry and reflection. It will be a process which allows each to acquire insights into personal experience; into the awe and wonder of the world in which we live; into our own beliefs and values. We acknowledge the innate dignity and worth of each individual as children of God and recognise that opportunities will give rise to expressions of character and personal responses.

It is essential to recognise the author of our spiritual development is not our own construction of meaning, but God himself.

Practice

Developing each person's spirituality is the responsibility of the whole school community. Spiritual Development is made through the planned and hidden curriculum. In other words, at St Paul & St Timothy's we address spirituality both explicitly and implicitly.

We address spirituality explicitly through:

- the teaching of RE using the Religious Education Directory
- PSHE through the use of PSHE association resources and Jigsaw
- Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- Prayer and Liturgy and assemblies
- Cross-curricular approaches where appropriate
- Drama

- Music
- Reflections
- Liturgical celebrations including Mass
- Regularly planned visits to church
- the teaching of other faiths

We address spirituality implicitly through:

- actions
- relationships and personal interactions
- unspoken expectations expressed in tone of voice, posture, facial expressions, etc
- the living-out of our school ethos led by our Mission Statement
- the degree of welcome we afford visitors
- the planned and maintained environment throughout the school

Evaluation

The evaluation of Spiritual Development within St Paul & St Timothy's Catholic Infant School, carried out by the SLT and the RE Team, 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 opportunities for all to:

- acquire insights into their own personal existence
- make sense of their life experiences
- develop a sense of wonder, awe, reverence and imagination
- develop the human capacity to go beyond physical, tangible reality
- develop a sense of the presence of God in their lives
- reflect on and respond to this presence
- become familiar with the life, words and actions of Jesus, the Son of God
- become familiar with the life, words and actions of the saints as heroes of the Church and other significant Christians, as well as other inspirational people
- hear of how people with other belief systems respond to the spiritual dimension of life

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

- knowledge of the central beliefs, ideas and practices of major world religions and philosophies
- an understanding of how people have sought to explain the universe through various myths and stories, including religious, historical and scientific interpretations
- beliefs which are held personally, and the ability to give some account of these and to derive values from them
- behaviour and attitudes which derive from such knowledge and understanding and from personal conviction, and which show awareness of the relationship between belief and action
- personal responses to questions about the purpose of life, and to the experience of the rich fabric of life itself