



OUR SCHOOL MOTTO IS:

Growing in Faith and Knowledge

OUR SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

St. Joseph's Preparatory School is a Catholic School, which was founded by the Christian Brothers and is a place where the staff and governors work to bring the Gospel values into all areas of School life and where prayer, worship and liturgy are seen as meaningful experiences.

Each child is encouraged to strive for the highest possible standards of work and behaviour, whilst learning to live as a well-mannered, self-disciplined and tolerant individual both inside and outside the classroom. The children learn to live as happy and caring members of a School community, which values their unique individual talents, and also the needs of others.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School values and nurtures a close partnership with parents and encourages the forming of meaningful links with the wider community. The children are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities in order to develop an interest in sporting, cultural and recreational activities.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School up holds fundamental British values and encourages respect for all people.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School recognises its legal duty to work with Local Safeguarding Children's Board acting on behalf of children in need or enquiring into allegations of abuse.

We recognise that pupils have a fundamental right to be protected from harm and require a secure environment in order to learn effectively.

St. Joseph's Preparatory School's Safeguarding Children Policy follows the guidelines laid down by the City of Stoke on Trent Safeguarding Children's Procedures and "Working Together to Safeguard Children"(2015) and " Keeping Children Safe in Education"(2016) (KCSIE)

Our motto 'Growing in Faith and Knowledge' encapsulates the School's Aims:

- To provide a caring, Christian community, in which individuals can develop fully.
- To strive for excellence in all areas – academic, sporting, musical etc.
- To provide an ethos which brings the Gospel message alive.
- To develop strong community links.

(St. Joseph's Preparatory School has achieved International School Status and is an Eco School.
We are a Dyslexia Friendly School)

St Joseph's Preparatory School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

SPIRITUAL AND MORAL and CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Co-ordinator: Mrs S D Hutchinson
October 2009
Reviewed: June 2017 Reviewed annually

St Joseph's Preparatory School

Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development Policy

This policy is applicable to all pupils including EYFS (Staff are notified of regular ISI updates)

Schools should produce young people with ideas and dreams, with a vision of what they want to achieve in life, who have a strong sense of service, of care and compassion for those in need; who have above all, a love of life, a zest for living life to the full. (Cardinal Hume 1999)

... by His Incarnation, the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every man and woman. He worked with human hands, he thought with a human mind, he acted by human choice, he loved with a human heart. (Gaudium et Spes – the Church in the Modern World – Vatican 2)

... the sense for the presence of God in the world around us and in our own hearts, awakens the creative powers in our nature and calls us to express our joy in art and poetry, in music and dance, and to order our lives in justice and truth. (Bede Griffiths OSB)

The Governors and Staff at St Joseph's Preparatory School

- Actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs:
- Ensure that principles are actively promoted which-
- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;

Spiritual Development – An Overview

Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth. It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, valuing a non-material dimension to life and intimations of an enduring reality. 'Spiritual' is now synonymous with 'religious'; all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development.

Spiritual Development, is concerned with how an individual acquires personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has purpose and the basis of personal and social behaviour questions which are 'at the heart and root of existence'. It is therefore also about what a school provides; though its curriculum,

through collective worship, through its ethos and climate, to help individuals to make sense of these questions and about what it does to help form pupils' response to life and to various forms of experience, or even to question about the universe.

The educational mission of the Church 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

At St Joseph's Preparatory School, the Spiritual Development of each child is an integral part of our Mission Statement (see front cover).

The aim of our school is to create an atmosphere where children are allowed to develop spiritually, and culturally. At St Joseph's Preparatory School, we encourage children to develop:

- A set of values, principles and beliefs, which may or may not be religious which inform their perspective on life and their patterns of behaviour;
- An awareness and understanding of their own and others beliefs;
- A respect for themselves and for others;
- A sense of empathy with others, concern and compassion;
- An increasing ability to reflect and learn from this reflection;
- An ability to show courage in defence of their aims, values, principles and beliefs;
- A readiness to challenge all that would constrain the human spirit, for example, poverty of aspiration, lack of self confidence and belief, moral neutrality or indifference, force, fanaticism, aggression, greed, injustice, narrowness of vision, self interest, sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination;
- An appreciation of the intangible – for example, beauty, truth, love, goodness, order as well as for mystery, paradox and ambiguity;
- A respect for insight as well as knowledge and reason;
- An expressive and/or creative impulse;
- An ability to think in terms of the 'whole' – for example, concepts such as harmony, interdependence, scale and perspective;
- An understanding of feelings and emotions and their likely impact.

At St Joseph's Preparatory School, to encourage our pupils' Spiritual Development we:

- Give pupils the opportunity to explore values and beliefs including religious beliefs and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives;
- Support and develop pupils own religious beliefs in a ways which are personal and relevant to them;
- Encourage pupils to explore and develop what animates them and others;
- Encourage pupils to reflect and learn from reflection;
- Give pupils the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions and the way they affect people and how an understanding of them can be helpful;
- Have an ethos which encourages all pupils to grow, to flourish, to respect others and be respected;
- Accommodate difference and respect the integrity of individuals;
- Promote 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 and encourage pupils to relate their learning to a wider frame of reference, for example, asking 'why' and 'where' as well as 'what';
- Monitor in simple, pragmatic ways, the success of what is provided.

Pupils' spirituality is promoted and developed through the entire educative process especially through:

- The ethos of the school which is encapsulated in our school motto 'Growing in Faith and Knowledge' and the School's Aims:
 1. To provide a caring, Christian community, in which individuals can develop fully.
 2. To strive for excellence in all areas – academic, sporting, musical etc.
 3. To provide an ethos which brings the Gospel message alive.
 4. To develop strong community links.
- Curriculum subjects, especially Religious Education (RE);
- Collective worship, Success Assembly, class prayers, visitors, community links and in accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Planning

- Teachers and support staff plan on a termly basis; during planning sessions account will be taken of Spiritual Development and opportunities for Spirituality will be highlighted in Schemes of Work. Staff have the opportunity to meet and discuss their planning and consider curriculum requirements.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Individual targets are agreed for each child on a termly basis, these may include Spirituality.
- The Headteacher and staff have regular staff meetings where aspects of spirituality are discussed on an informal basis.
- Staff write reports on a termly basis and meet with parents twice yearly, opportunity is given at these times for parents to express their views on developing Spirituality.

Moral Development – An Overview

‘Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong’.

As they develop a sense of morality, pupils should become more able to explore the place of reason in ethical matters and, as autonomous moral agents, acquire value systems, which are their own (rather than simply transmitted by others and accepted uncritically), together with the understanding that their behaviour and actions should derive from these beliefs and values.

Moral Development involves the distinction between right and wrong, good and evil in a social context. Moral Development, therefore, is about a growing awareness of, and a positive response to, the demands of living as an individual with others in community.

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). The gospel value is lived out in the daily life of the school in many ways including:

- Forgiveness
- Freedom
- Tolerance
- Respect
- Relationships

And is reflected in the Mission Statement of the School.

St Joseph's Preparatory School recognises that there are clearly areas where there is a broad range of opinion and there will always be debate about moral values, about their relativity to certain historical areas or cultural contexts and about the possibility of universal moral standards. The school, teachers, pupils and parents will differ, as well as agree, on some values but by working together will strive to help pupils understand the reason for this.

At St Joseph's Preparatory School, we aim to help pupils become morally aware by developing some of the following characteristics.

- An ability to distinguish right from wrong, based on knowledge of the moral codes of their own and other cultures;
- A confidence to act consistently in accordance with their own principles;
- An ability to think through the consequences of their own and others' actions;
- A willingness to express their values on ethical issues and personal values;
- An ability to make responsible and reasoned judgments on moral dilemmas;
- A commitment to personal values in areas which are considered right by some and wrong by others;
- 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 and reassess their values, codes and principles in the light of experience.

In order to help pupils achieve moral awareness, the school:

- Provides a clear Code of Conduct as a basis for behaviour which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school;
- Promotes measures to prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and other criteria;
- Gives pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values – for example, personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice, equality of opportunity, right and wrong;
- Develops an open and safe learning environment in which pupils can express their views and practise moral decision-making;
- Rewards expressions of moral insights and good behaviour;
- Makes an issue of breaches of agreed moral codes where they arise – for example, in the press, on TV and the internet as well as in school;
- Models, through the quality of relationships and interactions, the principles which St Joseph's Preparatory School promotes – for example, fairness, integrity, respect

for persons, pupils' welfare, respect for minority interests, resolution of conflict, keeping promises and contracts;

- Recognises and respects the codes and morals of the different cultures represented in the school and wider community;
- Encourages pupils to take responsibility for their actions, for example, respect for property, care of the environment and developing codes of behaviour;
- Provides models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts, assemblies and acts of worship;
- Reinforces the school's values through images, posters, classroom displays, screensavers, exhibitions;
- Monitors in simple, pragmatic ways, the success of what is provided.

People who are developing morally listen to their conscience, the inner sense, informed by their upbringing, experiences and faith or religious beliefs that prompts them to do what is right out of love for others, respect for themselves and regard for the world in which they live.

Pupils morality is promoted and developed through the entire educative process and especially through:

- The distinctive ethos of St Joseph's Preparatory School which is encapsulated in our school motto 'Growing in Faith and Knowledge' and the School's Aims:
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