



## **ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL (SMSC) POLICY**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full - John 10:10*

As a Catholic school, God is at the heart of all we do. We believe that each person is made in His image, deserving to be treated with respect and dignity.

Showing respect, love and care for everyone and everything, we aim to develop harmony between pupils, parents, the school and Parish and grow as a Christian community.

We aim to embed the virtues in every child to believe in themselves to be the best that they can be and leave school as well-rounded individuals who care about themselves, others, and the world.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the  
Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Date drafted: June 2024

Date ratified by the Local Governing Committee: July 2024

Date for review by Staff and Governors: June 2025

**As the overarching principle from which collective worship flows, Archbishop Vincent Nichols, Bishop of Westminster, on behalf of the Catholic Education Service, says the following about spirituality:**

*'We need to give pupils opportunities to reflect, in increasing depth, on what they have seen, or read, or done; to analyse their reactions; to justify the meaning they give to a particular experience. To encourage pupils to get into the habit of this kind of reflection, it is therefore, an essential part of the spiritual development.'*

## **1. RATIONALE**

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School we recognise the importance of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) awareness as a fundamental part of our Catholic school. We understand that SMSC is not restricted to the Religious Education lessons but must present itself in all aspects of our school life and our broad and balanced curriculum. In this way we aim to assist the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, we believe that education is a means of proclaiming and revealing the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to our children, so that they may develop fully as human beings and discover purpose and meaning in their lives, now and in the future.

## **2. AIMS**

To fulfil our Mission Statement, we will:

- Provide a secure, stimulating Catholic environment where both children and adults can learn, grow and develop to their full potential.
- Ensure that each child is valued and respected.
- Develop faith in Jesus Christ through our teaching and the way we live and worship in our school.
- Develop the ability of both children and adults to deal responsibly with social, spiritual and moral issues.
- Encourage everyone to value and respect people from all cultures and communities.
- Establish open and respectful communication between pupils, teachers, parents and carers and the wider community.

## **3. TEACHING AND ORGANISATION**

At St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, we put the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children at the heart of everything we do. We have twelve virtues, which are covered over the academic year. They are the special graces given by God. They are the good habits that help us to act according to God's love for us. The Chaplaincy Team lead Celebration of the Word based on our school virtues. They are displayed in our school hall and classrooms and are embedded throughout our school (see Appendix 1).

Pupils are given time to reflect on our school virtues within class sessions, Celebration of the Word and whenever the opportunity arises.

Pupils and staff are given opportunities to develop their social, moral, spiritual and cultural awareness through all areas of our Catholic School. All National Curriculum subjects provide opportunities to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Explicit opportunities to promote pupils' development in these areas are provided in Religious Education and the non-statutory framework for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and PE at The Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Our PE curriculum is a holistic approach where we are aiming to develop the 'whole child'. It is built around a framework with clear learning journeys, which develop a range of personal, social, physical, health & fitness, cognitive and creative abilities. A significant contribution is also made by school ethos, effective relationships throughout the school, and Celebration of the Word.

#### **4. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

As a Catholic school, we place special emphasis on the specific teaching and beliefs of the Catholic faith, both within the daily life of the school and through the curriculum. We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to develop their:

- Sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.
- Ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, faiths, feelings and values as well as those of others.
- Will to achieve.
- Curiosity about themselves and their place in the world and try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions.
- Knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material wellbeing.

#### **5. MORAL DEVELOPMENT**

Moral development, based on Christian principles, should enable pupils to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour. As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to develop their:

- Understanding and knowledge of right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and the will to do what is right.
- Willingness to reflect on the consequences of their actions and learn how to forgive themselves and others.
- The knowledge, skills and understanding, qualities and attitudes they need in order to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.
- Understanding of the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of consequences or sanctions.

#### **6. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

The school provides a suitable environment for promoting social development within a Christian context. Pupils learn to lead, to use their initiative and to use individual skills and strengths when working together towards a common goal. As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to develop their:

- Understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of families and communities (local, national and global), and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good;
- Sense of belonging and an increasing willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively;
- Knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of their communities;
- Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; they develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

## **7. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

A cross-curricular approach can be used to promote and develop cultural awareness, for example: music, dance, drama and art. As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to develop their:

- Understanding of cultural traditions and ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences;
- Respect for their own culture and that of others, an interest in other people's ways of doing things and curiosity about differences;
- Knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture.

## Chaplaincy Team – Celebration of the Word Plan

### Virtues



# Virtues at St Thomas More

Virtues are the special graces given by God. They are the good habits that help us to act according to God's love for us.

|                                                                                           |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>I am <i>diligent</i></p> <p>I work hard and try my best.</p>                           | <p>I am <i>helpful</i></p> <p>I find things that need to be done and do them.</p> | <p>I am <i>perseverant</i></p> <p>I am a have a go hawk!</p>                       | <p>I am <i>kind</i></p> <p>I treat others the way I would like to be treated</p> |
| <p>I am <i>honest</i></p> <p>I think the truth, I speak the truth, I live the truth.</p>  | <p>I am <i>patient</i></p> <p>I graciously wait, without complaint.</p>           | <p>I am <i>content</i></p> <p>I am happy with what I have and what I am doing</p>  | <p>I am <i>gentle</i></p> <p>I am caring towards all.</p>                        |
| <p>I am <i>attentive</i></p> <p>I give my full attention to the needs and feelings of</p> | <p>I am <i>forgiving</i></p> <p>I choose to love when others hurt me.</p>         | <p>I am <i>obedient</i></p> <p>I follow instructions willingly and cheerfully.</p> | <p>I am <i>self-controlled</i></p> <p>I make myself do the right thing.</p>      |

| <u>Half Term</u> | <u>Virtues</u>                   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Autumn 1         | Kind<br>Gentle                   |
| Autumn 2         | Helpful<br>Content               |
| Spring 1         | Perseverant<br>Self – Controlled |
| Spring 2         | Obedient<br>Attentive            |
| Summer 1         | Forgiving<br>Patient             |
| Summer 2         | Diligent<br>Honest               |