

# Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



Catholic  
Primary School  
Congleton  
A Voluntary Academy

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

*Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School is a Christ centred learning community,  
where all are safe, valued and loved."*

Policy Schedule	Date	Signed
Approved by the Governing Body:	06.12.2022	Headteacher: Greg Merrick Chair of Governors: Paul Fagan
To be reviewed:	December 2025	

## SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

“When wisdom comes into your heart and knowledge fills your soul with delight, then prudence will be there to watch over you and understanding will be your guardian.”

**Book of Proverbs 2: 10-11**

As a Catholic community, we seek to develop an ethos in our school whereby the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all within the school community is supported and nurtured. This will be expressed through our response to the gospel call to love. The manner and style of relationships in the school are part of the sign of that response and it is in that that we must strive always to ‘practise what we preach’.

We seek to develop pupils’ character, which we define as a set of positive personal traits, dispositions and virtues that informs their motivation and guides their conduct so that they reflect wisely, learn eagerly, behave with integrity and cooperate consistently well with others. This gives pupils the qualities they need to flourish in and contribute to society.

We encourage everyone in the school community to bear daily witness to the faith and to be agents for positive change. We seek to nurture our pupils’ response to and appreciation of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- Solidarity
- Care for God's creation
- Call to Family, Community and Participation
- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

### SPIRITUAL

As a Catholic school, we strive to support the pupils in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, pupils will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. We believe that this begins with a personal experiential encounter with the living Christ and that once experienced this needs to be fostered and developed through:

- Personal and community prayer
- A sense of God’s presence permeating the life of the school
- Liturgies where pupils become aware of entering His presence
- Hearing His word spoken in Scripture
- Experiencing the community of the faithful
- Celebration of the mass
- Curriculum that creates a sense of awe, wonder and of the transcendent quiet times of reflection
- Opportunities to express personal views and insights whilst searching for the truth together

- Developing in pupils a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them

### MORAL

At the heart of the Church's and the school's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God. We are called to reflect God's love for us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have been given the freedom to respond to His love, or reflect Him. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development – to our becoming fully human. At Saint Mary's we believe:

- Love is at the heart of the Catholic understanding of morality
- Morality touches all aspects of the curriculum
- Every free human action has a negative or positive influence on life
- Individuals are created free by God to choose what is right or wrong
- We, as a Church, 'hate the sin but love the sinner'
- Misdemeanours need to be dealt with but the individual must be treated with respect
- Pupils should grow in their understanding of what is right and wrong so as to become autonomous moral agents
- Pupils' understanding of healthy relationships should be developed through age-appropriate relationship and sex education (Using the Ten:Ten scheme: Life to the Full)

### SOCIAL

God did not create mankind for life in isolation, but for the formation of social unity. Therefore, it is part of the responsibility of the school to support pupils, and their families, in the formation of good social attitudes. The school community will nurture our pupils to:

- Learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with membership of a group and community
- Become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others
- Experience, through the social organisation and management of the classroom, playground and dinner hall, opportunities to learn and develop correct social skills and attitudes
- Participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co-operative skills that will help all to live with each other
- Learn what it means to be responsible, respectful and active citizens who are able to play their part and become actively involved in public life as adults

### CULTURAL

Cultural development is the increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values and customs, knowledge and skills which taken together form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups. Cultures grow and change; features of the past influence the present and will shape its future form. Pupils at Saint Mary's will:

- Be introduced to the values and customs held within our Catholic cultural tradition
- Be taught about the values and customs of our national culture including the fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance
- Become aware of cultures of the past through historical programmes of study
- Respect the values, customs and cultural heritage of people who belong to other faiths or ethnic cultures, and have the ability to recognise, and value, the things we share in common
- Have their cultural achievements outside school acknowledged and valued

- Be taught through a curriculum which will enrich, deepen and broaden their experience, participation and enjoyment of all cultural excellence whether aesthetic, artistic, mathematical, literary, technological, musical, sporting or scientific.