

**Great Crosby Catholic Primary School**  
'...that they may have life and have it to the full.'  
John 10:10

# **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy**



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The distinctive nature and religious character of our school presents itself in all aspects of our school life especially in the way we aim to assist the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

In Great Crosby 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.

In Great Crosby Catholic Primary School, our ethos permeates all aspects of school life and supports spiritual, moral, social and cultural development both within and beyond the curriculum. We believe in the God-given dignity of each person and are committed to ensuring all pupils have opportunities to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

The four aspects of SMSC development can be summed up in the following way:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spiritual Development</b></p> <p>Explore beliefs and experience; respect values; discover oneself and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect; foster awe and wonder.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Moral Development</b></p> <p>Recognise right and wrong; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Social Development</b></p> <p>Use social skills in different contexts; work well with others; Resolve conflicts; understand how communities work.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cultural Development</b></p> <p>Appreciate cultural influences; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity</p>

### **Evidence of SMSC Development**

Evidence of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development can be found, for examples, where pupils:

- Are reflective about beliefs, values and more profound aspects of human experience, using their imagination and creativity, and developing curiosity in their learning
- Develop and apply an understanding of right and wrong in their school life and life outside school
- Take part in a range of activities requiring social skills
- Develop awareness of and respect for diversity in relation to, for example, gender, race, religion and belief, culture, sexual orientation and disability
- Gain a well-informed understanding of the options and challenges facing them as they move through the school and on to the next stage of their education and training
- Develop an appreciation of theatre, music, art and literature

- Develop the skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully and positively in democratic modern Britain
- Respond positively to a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities
- Understand and appreciate the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life.

### **Opportunities for SMSC Development**

It is important to recognise that the four aspects of SMSC development are often interwoven.

### **Spiritual Development**

The spiritual life at Great Crosby Catholic Primary School community is strong and individuals are supported to develop their own spirituality. This is evident in relationships and behaviour and supports our school as we work to bring to life Christ's mission "... That they may have life and have it to the full."

At Great Crosby we support pupils' spiritual development through:

- RE curriculum – Come and See and To Know you More Clearly
- Studies of other faiths
- Children are given opportunity to explore and develop relationships with God (and question) through prayer and liturgy and the everyday life of the school
- Use of the prayer room and prayer garden
- Focus table for reflection in each class and in assemblies
- Highlighting significant feasts in the Catholic Faith and in other faiths
- Marking or celebrating different aspects of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Feast Days)
- Supporting pupils in preparing for and celebrating the Sacraments- With You Always Programme
- Links with Church and parish community
- Opportunities for pupils to reflect
- Opportunities for pupils to discover and develop their talents within school and in extra-curricular clubs
- Opportunities to foster awe and wonder

### **Moral Development**

Great Crosby Catholic Primary School brings to life Christ's new commandment, ' That you love one another as I have loved you.' The Gospel values of forgiveness, freedom, tolerance and respect are lived out in the daily life of Great Crosby Catholic Primary School.

At Great Crosby Catholic Primary School we support pupils' moral development through:

- Clear expectations for behaviour which are displayed around the school and promoted consistently. All incidents of bullying or discrimination to be dealt with in accordance with policies. Constant positive reminders of expectations eg right choice and wrong choices.
- RE curriculum –To Know You More Clearly and Come and See
- School council
- Worship warriors
- Eco council
- Mental Health Champions
- Prefects
- Safety
- Highlighting issues in the media
- Opportunities for fund raising
- Modelling good practice through relationships and interactions eg fairness, integrity, respect for people, pupils' welfare, respect for minority interests, resolution of conflict, keeping promises and contracts
- Providing models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts, assemblies and acts of worship
- Reinforcing the school's values through images, posters, classroom displays, screensavers.

### **Social Development**

Social development at Great Crosby Catholic Primary School is concerned with leading the children to understand that we are made not only for ourselves but to live with, in and through community. Only in community are we able to live out Gospel values and can 'love your neighbour as yourself.' We believe that good relationships that are based on mutual respect and love are the key to a harmonious environment where all can work together towards the common good. We further believe that what is learned in our school community and their Christian role in society.

At Great Crosby we support pupils' social development through:

- Fostering a sense of community
- Community events – Toddler group, Christmas fair, summer fair, Sports day, celebrations in church, community invited into school, masses
- Opportunities to work cooperatively
- Team building experiences- assemblies, residential, concerts, productions, liturgies, sports day.
- Helping pupils develop personal qualities which are valued in a civilised society eg thoughtfulness, honesty, respect of difference, moral principles, independence, inter-dependence, self-respect.
- Strategies for conflict resolution, restorative justice- link to the Gospel message: 'love your neighbour as yourself.'

- Developing vocabulary with which to understand and debate social issues
- Leadership and responsibility.
- Aspirations work
- Links with the wider community
- Children’s University
- School council elections through peer voting

### **Cultural Development**

At Great Crosby Catholic Primary School development is concerned with the cultures and traditions represented in our school, its immediate environment, our country and the world. We believe it is our duty to lead out children, through the development of respect and understanding, to learn, to live with a wider variety of people from different national. Cultural, racial and religious backgrounds. As our school Mission statement says “ We are one big family built on respect with Jesus at the centre and the children at the heart.”

At Great Crosby we support pupils’ cultural development through:

- Highlighting national cultural events
- Multi-Cultural education in the curriculum
- Promoting understanding and respect for all culture
- Opportunities to visit (or have visitors from) theatre, museum, galleries
- Reinforcing the school’s cultural values through displays, posters, exhibitions, etc