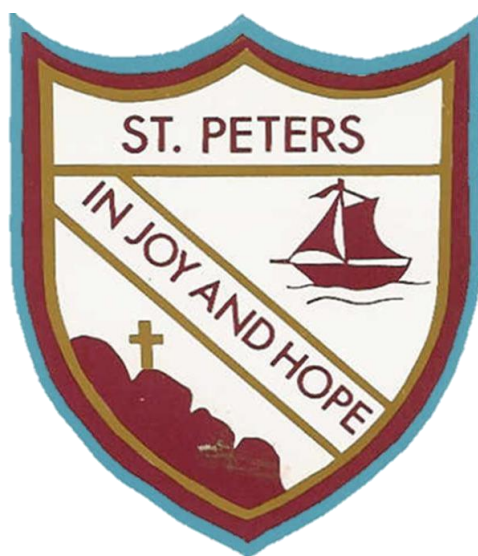


St Peter's Catholic Primary School



Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural (SMSC) Policy

Approved by Governors July 2026

Mission statement

In joy we live together, in hope we build for the future

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School it is our aim to rise standards by promoting a school ethos, which is underpinned by core values. These values support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner within a calm, caring, happy and purposeful atmosphere.

The values we focus on are – respect, responsibility, tolerance, friendship, love, courage, appreciation, honesty, understanding, empathy, co-operations, positivity, unity, peace, happiness, hope, patience, care, humility, determination, trust and freedom.

School aims

At St Peter's it is the aim of the school:

- To place emphasis on the teaching and learning of the gospel messages through our religious educational syllabus and through the way we relate to each other in our everyday lives.
- To foster a living community of prayer and celebration both within the school and in partnership with the parish of St Peter's to enable children to understand and respect other faiths.
- To nurture within our children a sense of aspiration, self-determination and a desire to achieve their academic and personal potential.

Rationale

The distinctive nature and religious character of our school is not something that can be restricted to the R.E. lesson but must present 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.

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. Our aim to live out our Mission Statement daily is the sign of that response.

We seek to develop pupils' character, which we define as a set of positive personal traits, dispositions and virtues that inform their motivation and guides their conduct so that they reflect wisely, love with love, behave with integrity and cooperate respectfully 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
- Right and Responsibilities
- Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers

Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

At St Peter's we aim to:

- Provide an atmosphere of peace, welcome, friendliness, co-operation and tolerance where every person is valued as a unique and special child of God;
- Foster caring relationships between all those who are members of our school community;
- Provide a high quality of pastoral care;
- Provide the opportunity for every child to achieve their true potential through the experiences which they receive and the knowledge they acquire;
- Enable children to develop an understanding and respect for different beliefs and cultures

To achieve these aims we will provide in our implicit and explicit curriculum opportunities for children to:

- Learn that we, as Catholics, believe that life is a spiritual journey towards God in which we develop our relationship with him through prayer and worship;
- Explore and question their own experiences and interpretations of them in a secure and loving environment;
- Respond to and express their reactions to their own inner experience and that of others in a variety of forms;
- Have time for quiet reflection, individually or as a member of a group;
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery in the natural world and feel a sense of God in the order and beauty of his creation;
- Develop an appreciation that although we as Catholics believe that we are made in the image and likeness of God different traditions may celebrate the worth of being human in different ways.
- Explore and express their innermost thoughts, creativity and imagination and show an awareness and valuing of the feelings and beliefs of others;
- Explore how people have expressed their feelings through literature, poetry, art, design, music and dance and learn from this how to express their feelings through their own work;
- Come into contact with the beliefs and practices of others through story and festival and by meeting visitors from other faiths;
- Develop the beliefs and values of the home and family through the Gospel values and attitudes which we as a school community uphold and foster;
- Establish positive school relationships based on tolerance, acceptance, appreciation and respect;
- Understand that injustice, aggression or rejection can hurt others;
- Think about and reflect on their own lives and explore the lives of people who exemplify qualities which are universally valued.

Implementation and Organisation

In order to promote the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of our children we will;

- ensure that the school and classroom environment is stimulating and well ordered to promote positive learning and encourage personal development and responsibility.
- use the teachings and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Faith to promote positive relationships with and respect for all individuals and groups.
- through the implementation of the R.E. Policy, lead children to an awareness of spiritual values and an understanding that, regardless of colour, sex, status or religion, God is truly concerned about and loves every single person.
- promote positive values, qualities and attitudes and discourage negative ones through the implementation of our school Behaviour Policy.

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
- A curriculum that creates a sense of awe, wonder and 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.

“God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

(Romans 5:5)

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 St Peter’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

“Love your neighbour as you love yourself.” **(Matthew 22:39)**

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 positive social attitudes. The school community will nurture our pupils to:

- Learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with memberships 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 school environment, 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 and attitudes
- 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
- Foster social skills through teamwork and co-operative projects and encourage development of social responsibility by support for charitable ventures.

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.” **(1 Corinthians 12:12)**

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 St Peter’s will:

- 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 that 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.

“You are all one in Christ Jesus.” **(Galatians 3:28)**