

# The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School



*Following Jesus,  
The Good Shepherd,  
in all we say and do*

**Spiritual Development Policy  
2023 - 2024**



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## The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School

### Spiritual Development Policy

#### **Philosophy**

In accordance with our school Mission Statement, 'Following Jesus, The Good Shepherd, in all we say and do', we understand Spiritual Development as the growth of our children's individual relationship with God.

#### **Policy Intentions:**

By developing their spirituality, we intend for our pupils to grow into educated Christians who will serve as witnesses to moral and spiritual values in the wider world. In order to achieve this intention the school recognises that:

- Each individual is created by God and is, therefore, able to develop a unique relationship with the Creator.
- Each individual continues to develop this relationship throughout their life journey.
- The very nature of this individuality means that everyone is at a different point on their journey.
- All members of the school community must be encouraged in their spiritual growth.
- Within the school, spirituality is developed through our Catholic teachings and traditions.

#### **Aims**

We aim that each individual will be given the opportunity to:

- Be inspired by a sense of awe and wonder and mystery.
- Develop the need to search for meaning and purpose.
- Recognise the value and worth of relationships.
- Express innermost thoughts and feelings through creativity.
- Experience a sense of feelings and emotions.

#### **Strategies**

In order to achieve the aims of this policy the school intends to:

- Provide daily opportunities for the children to develop their personal relationship with God e.g. through high quality prayer times. provide a spiritual focus in each classroom.
- Provide areas in the school where individuals can withdraw to for reflection and contemplation.



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- Offer opportunities for staff to develop their spirituality.
- Encourage parents to participate in acts of collective spirituality such as School Mass or Assembly.
- Provide opportunities for the school Chaplain to discuss, as appropriate, spiritual matters with the children.
- Provide a curriculum which allows the children to become familiar with the life and teachings of Christ.
- Allow staff to take opportunities which arise in subject teaching to highlight the nature of God the Creator.

## Roles and Responsibilities

At The Good Shepherd, we recognise the importance of understanding the school as a Christian community whose values are communicated through its members' relationships. We believe each part of our community has a role and a responsibility in developing our children's spirituality.

### The Governors

We fully endorse the view that 'Catholic Education is based on the belief that the human and the Divine are inseparable' (Bishops' Statement on Education 1996). Therefore, we believe that Spiritual Development must be addressed through a holistic approach. Governors endeavour to ensure that the management, organisation and academic work of the school allow for the growth of the individual pupils' relationship with God.

### The Staff

We believe that all members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, are an integral part of the school community and as such contribute to the development of pupils. Staff, therefore, must be aware of and continue to develop their own spirituality so that they are able to provide more fully for the children's growth. Teachers, because of their direct involvement in the children's progress, have a strategic role and must provide specific opportunities within their teaching plans for the spiritual growth of their pupils.

### Parents

We recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children and therefore provide for the initial spiritual development of our pupils. In choosing The Good Shepherd, we believe that parents have confirmed and strengthened their own spirituality and invited the school to share in promoting their children's spiritual growth. Thus, parents and school have a mutual role and must offer mutual support in this task.

### Parish

The school is part of the St Aidan's and Northampton Cathedral Parish. We believe that the Parish should build upon and extend the work of both parents and the school in the development of the children's spirituality. We look to the Church community to provide a spiritual support and resource for those engaged in this task.



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### RE/Worship and Liturgy Leader Roles

The Headteacher and RE Subject Lead, share the responsibility for spiritual development in the school. The role includes:

- Review of the Spiritual Development Policy.
- Implementing any amendments to be made to the policy.
- Promoting opportunities for spiritual development in the school, keeping up to date with developments locally and nationally.

This policy emphasises the fact that the responsibility for spiritual development rests on all in the school. Each with their unique talents will be able to make their contributions.

### Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the Headteacher and RE Subject Lead. It is evaluated and reviewed by the whole school staff and governors every two years. The Foundation Governors, in particular, will play a most important role.