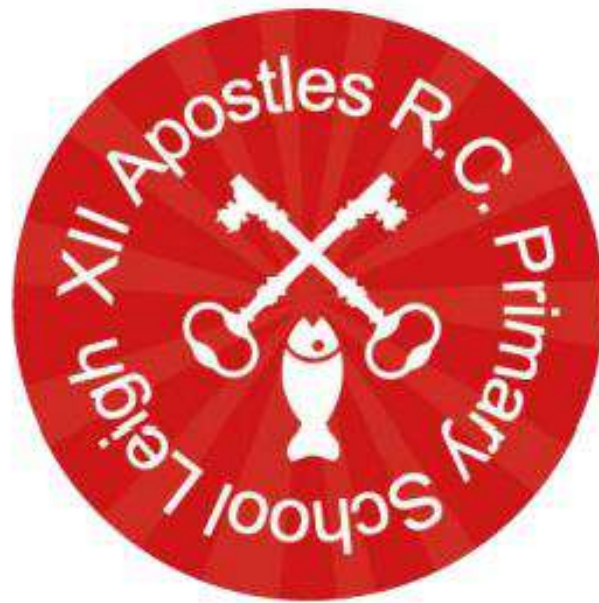


XII Apostles RCPS Spiritual Development Policy



Date effective from	February 2026
Date of next review	February 2028
Review period	2 Year
Person responsible	Mrs C Featherstone

Spiritual Development Policy

Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence which are of enduring worth. It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, valuing a non-material dimension to life and intimations of an enduring reality. 'Spiritual' is not synonymous with 'religious', all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupil's spiritual development.

At XII Apostles RCPS we believe that everyone who interacts with pupils needs to be involved in promoting the pupils spiritual development.

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of Spiritual Development at XII Apostles RCPS. The school's mission statement clearly reflects the importance of Spiritual Development.

Mission Statement

Through Loving and Learning we will follow Jesus

Aims

1. To place Christ at the centre of everything we do
2. To recognise that each child is unique and to ensure that each child is educated to fulfil their human potential
3. To develop an understanding of Community; being able to recognise, respect and celebrate the diversity of all within it.

~

1. To place Christ at the centre of everything we do ...
 - a) Create a community where everyone will matter and everyone will be treated with love
 - b) Integrate the Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church into every aspect of learning, teaching and the totality of school life
 - c) Support the children's journey of faith
 - d) Ensure the Mission Statement is the foundation of all policies
2. To recognise that each child is unique and to ensure that each child is educated to fulfil their human potential ...

- a) Ensure that the vision of education will be based on the Christian understanding that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and therefore has dignity
 - b) Educate and develop the whole child: learning from the Bible and through visiting Church ; learning through Religious Education and through Collective Worship; providing opportunities for prayer, liturgy, celebration of the word and assemblies
 - c) Support parents in their responsibility for the academic, physical, spiritual, moral and religious education of their children in accordance with the teachings of the Church
 - d) Recognising the talents and gifts of all
 - e) Find out about the special role God has for everyone and support this journey
3. To develop an understanding of Community; being able to recognise, respect and celebrate the diversity of all within it ...
- a) Work in partnership with parents, parish and the wider community
 - b) Create a community rooted in faith and inspired by Christian values where everyone is and feels valued
 - c) Promote an understanding and respect for all; being a service to society enabling children to understand their communal obligations, personal aspirations and their role as citizens in society and the world.
 - d) Promote community cohesion at school, local, national and global levels
 - e) Respect the equal human rights of all our pupils and educate them about equality

~

The children will have access to and further understand the school mission statement through work carried out to support the children's Spiritual Development.

At XII Apostles RCPS, we believe that spiritual development is concerned with how an individual acquires personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has a purpose and the basis for personal and social behaviour questions which are 'at the heart and root of existence'.

Aims

The school aims to support Spiritual Development through providing children and staff with a range of opportunities. These include opportunities to:

- Engage in daily prayer, worship and reflection.
- Make links with their faith and their actions through Catholic Social Teaching.
- Reflect on themselves, others and life's fundamental questions.
- Engage with inspirational speakers
- Participate in guided mediations with the parish priest
- Attend retreat days
- Experience awe and wonder, to be moved by nature and by excellence in human achievement.
- Exercise imagination and intuition, in creative pursuits and in forming theories in their academic work and daily life.
- Discuss and debate, insights, beliefs, ideas, emotions, feelings and experiences.
- Exercise intellectual curiosity, testing their beliefs against others and exploring similarities and differences.

Objectives

To achieve these aims the school will:-

- Ensure that the mission statement is lived out in all aspects of teaching, learning, catholic life and every opportunity of daily life within the school.
- Have an agreed set of shared values of which the children and staff follow. These will be rooted in the gospel values that we live out daily within our school.
- Ensure full guidance from the archdiocese is followed – all training attended and full cooperation the Religious Education Directory and the Prayer and Liturgy Directory
- Carefully plan opportunities to develop spirituality throughout the year.
- Ensure that work relating to Spiritual Development permeates the whole school.

Planning

Aspects of Spiritual Development planning will be found in:

- Religious Education Planning
- Celebration of the Word Planning
- Prayer and liturgy – Annual Plan of Provision
- Curriculum for Life Planning
- Foundation Stage Planning
- RE mapping across the curriculum document with clear links to CST
- Whole school assembly plans linking gospel values, CST and the Word of God

Teaching And Learning

Explicitly - Through RE lessons, Celebrations of the Word, Curriculum for Life in which RSHE and equal opportunities will be explicitly taught and through other subject areas as and when the opportunity is available.

Implicitly – Through words and actions, relationships between every member of the school and the community (locally and globally), the Catholic ethos of the school, the daily living out of our mission statement and gospel values and through unspoken expectations.

By Example – Through the way adults interact with each other, pupils and all members of the school community. Treating each other with respect, love and kindness will always be modelled by all members of staff, and this will therefore be reflected within the children.

Spiritual Development will also be promoted through following the Liturgical Cycle and through:

The Broader Curriculum – Spirituality will be developed throughout the school in a range of ways. Children are invited to join in meditation with the parish priest. Inspirational speakers are invited into school to show children that God made us all differently, we are all unique, we are all special and made in the image of God. Retreat days are attended by the pupils in Year six to develop spirituality and speakers from charities such as CAFOD and Compassion in Action (local charities) speak in school to show the children how they can make a difference in the world. Extra curricular activities at lunch times and after school clubs, including groups such as the Catholic Life Group are provided for children to again, enhance their spiritual development. Residential experiences and working with the local community also provide the opportunity for children to develop spiritually.

The School Context - School structures, systems, processes and rules will also play their part in supporting children to develop spiritually. The Annual Plan of Provision of Prayer and liturgy highlights some of these structures, including the opportunity to attend mass, services, opportunities to pray and more.

More Specific Examples

Curriculum

- Children join together in prayer every day. This includes daily prayers as a class, collective formal prayers in class and collective prayer in whole school assembly.
- Celebration of the Word takes place at least twice per week, both in class and whole school. Within this, children are encouraged to take a moment of

Sacred Silence in which they pause, reflect, consider how God's word speaks to them and to listen.

- Singing – singing hymns collectively and whole heartedly in class, mass and assembly.
- Art – studying artwork of religious paintings in the RED – developing that sense of appreciation, understanding, awe and wonder.
- Dance – Spiritual dances/to reflect learning in the RED
- Celebration of the Word
- Collective Prayer – whole school and in class
- Curriculum for life – including Journey in Love, No Outsiders and Growth Mind Set
- Prayer trees in classes – children can add to these whenever they would like to pray for someone or something.
- Visits to Church/ Visits from Father (reconciliation/meditation)
- School Trips – outdoor to appreciate nature and develop that sense of awe and wonder of God's world
- Visits from people of other cultures or faiths
- Assemblies linked to others faiths, linking with times of the year such as Chinese New Year
- Literacy – stories from other cultures
- Geography – looking at and understanding other cultures – linking this back to the specific cohort and the content of the RED
- Holy Communion and Reconciliation – Year 4

Extra Curricular Activities -

- Working as a school to achieve the Live Simply Award
- Working with local charities and global charities including Mary's Meals and achieving a school award from this.
- Additional clubs and activities such as the Catholic Life Group, School Council – groups in which children have a sense of worth appreciation and know that they make a difference to the school and the world
- Year Six Retreat Days with Youth Animate 'New Beginnings' to prepare the children spiritually for high school.
- Inspirational Speakers to school such as Bart Gee 'disability to possibility' to show that everyone is unique and made in God's image and that we can all be whatever we want – God has a plan for us all.
- Speakers such as David Wells invited to school to develop staff
- Meditation with parish priest
- Celebration of the Word led by RE link governor as additional opportunity.
- School Visits/ Visitors/Residentials – sense of awe and wonder/ extending experiences

- CAFOD visitors – making links with CST, jubilee year

Staff, Leaders and Other adults

- All staff meetings being with a moment of prayer and silence to gather staff together in God's presence. At the start of the half term, the RED staff prayers are used to link with the Teaching and Learning of the RED.
- During INSET Days and some staff meetings, the staff participate in Celebration of the Word together. This often links to the liturgical calendar.
- The headteacher and RE lead attends the Spirituality Days to develop their own spirituality and as a result, filter this to other staff and pupils
- Governors are invited to staff meetings, inset days, assemblies, celebrations of the word, masses, services and more. The RE link governors has also planned and shared Celebration of the Word with some classes.
- Parents and carers are invited to masses, services and a class 'stay and pray' celebration of the word' with their child's class.
- Travelling cribs are sent home each advent to provide opportunities for children and their families to develop spiritually together.

Organisation

Spiritual Development will be carried out through all other areas of the curriculum as and when spiritual issues arise in the work being carried out. Also spiritual issues will be discussed as and when they arise in the classroom, either as a result of something that happened in class or in the world around them.

Adaptation and SEN

All children are celebrated, included and nurtured at every opportunity. All children are actively encouraged to grow spiritually and fulfil their potential as individuals and as human beings at their own level. Each child knows that God made them in His image, that they are unique and that they are loved. Through knowing this, children have the roots to develop spirituality and the ability to pass this onto others.

Assessment

This will be carried out through the observation of the children interacting and working within the school.

Children who are developing spiritually will be increasingly:

- Open and responsive, aware of themselves and of life's challenges.

- Trusting in themselves and in others (and in God).
- Willing to engage, to take responsibility and to do what is right with courage and hope.
- Able to love others, be generous in spirit and respond well to hardship.

They will also be:

- Responsive to awe and to mystery.
- Keen to explore and understand, even where understanding may seem difficult or impossible.
- Eager to find meaning and purpose
- Keen to find good (and God).
- Creative and imaginative in a constant search for answers, including answers to life's fundamental questions.

Equal Opportunities

Each child is given every opportunity to participate fully in activities which promote their Spiritual Development.

Role of the RE Subject Leader

The RE Subject Leader is responsible for the whole school Spiritual Development Policy and its biannual review in consultation with other members of staff. The subject leader takes responsibility for the acquisition and storage of resources with the advice of colleagues and the archdiocese. The subject leader will keep the school up to date with any developments in Spiritual Development and liaise with the archdiocese regularly. The subject leader will assist the class teachers in the delivery of lessons which promote Spiritual Development.