

St Clare's Catholic Primary School



**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC)
Development Policy**

Written: September 2025

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Statement of Intent

At St Clare's Catholic Primary School, the life and teachings of Jesus Christ are at the heart of everything we do. Our mission calls us to nurture every child's light so that it shines brightly in learning, faith and service.

We believe that spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is central to a child's growth as a person made in the image of God. Through the Gospel values and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, we guide our pupils to know that they are loved, valued and called to make a difference in the world.

Our three core values of Faith, Respect and Aspire and our wider values of Curiosity, Determination, Forgiveness, Friendship and Trust underpin this policy and shape all that we do. SMSC development is woven through the curriculum, collective worship, relationships and the wider life of our community.

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Create a safe, caring and inclusive environment where every child feels loved and valued as a unique child of God.
- Foster the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of each pupil so that they grow in faith, confidence and responsibility.
- Encourage children to aspire, to learn from their mistakes and to see learning as a lifelong journey.
- Develop a deep respect for self and others, reflecting the dignity of every human person.

- Build a community rooted in friendship, trust and forgiveness, where reconciliation and peace are lived daily.
- Inspire curiosity about God’s world, about learning, and about the lives and experiences of others.
- Support each child to understand the importance of service, stewardship and care for creation.
- Encourage pupils to recognise their responsibilities to one another and to society, promoting the common good.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to the following legislation and guidance:

- The Education Act 2002
- DfE (2014) *Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in Schools*

It should be read alongside other key school policies including:

Safeguarding and Child Protection, Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, E-Safety, PSHE, SEND, Equality, Collective Worship, and Personal Development.

Guiding Principles

Spiritual Development

At St Clare’s, spiritual development is the heart of the curriculum. We provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Reflect on their own beliefs and experiences and recognise God’s presence in their lives.
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder at creation through prayer, worship, and the natural world.
- Use imagination and creativity in their learning and express their thoughts and feelings with confidence.
- Experience moments of stillness, contemplation and prayer through collective worship, liturgies and retreats.
- Explore the teachings of Jesus and the lives of the saints as models of faith and service.
- Participate in opportunities that nurture stewardship and responsibility for God’s world through Eco Council and the Live Simply award.

This reflects the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity of the Human Person and Stewardship of Creation.

Moral Development

Moral development is guided by the Gospel values of compassion, justice and forgiveness. Pupils are taught to:

- Recognise right and wrong and apply this understanding to their own choices.
- Understand the consequences of their actions and show empathy and reconciliation when mistakes are made.
- Discuss moral and ethical issues openly, considering the teachings of Christ and the Church’s call to justice.
- Reflect on the needs of others through charitable work such as CAFOD, Mary’s Meals and local community support.
- Show honesty and integrity in their learning and relationships.

Through these experiences, pupils learn to live out the principles of The Common Good and Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.

Social Development

Social development at St Clare's centres on relationships, community and service. Pupils are supported to:

- Develop positive relationships built on respect, kindness and forgiveness.
- Work cooperatively and value the opinions of others, especially when views differ.
- Take responsibility for their actions and contribute to the life of the school through the School Council, Eco Council, Junior Leadership Team and House Captains.
- Engage in restorative conversations that promote reconciliation and understanding.
- Participate in community and fundraising events that strengthen links with parish, home and the wider community.
- Learn about democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty through British values, assemblies and class discussions.

This development reflects the Catholic Social Teaching principles of Solidarity and Participation.

Cultural Development

Cultural development helps pupils to understand and appreciate the richness of God's world. At St Clare's we:

- Celebrate the diversity of our community and the many languages and cultures within it.
- Provide opportunities to learn about different faiths and traditions, promoting respect and understanding.
- Teach about local, national and global history, art, literature and music that reflect a variety of cultures.
- Celebrate festivals, Saints' days and cultural events throughout the year.
- Encourage pupils to share their heritage and experiences, recognising that difference is a gift.
- Promote Catholic Social Teaching themes of Human Dignity, Solidarity and Peace through assemblies and curriculum work.

Cross-Curricular Approach

SMSC development is integrated across all curriculum areas. In particular, it is fostered through:

- Religious Education and Collective Worship, where pupils reflect on faith, prayer and moral decision making.
- PSHE and Relationships Education, which support children to build healthy relationships, respect diversity and make responsible choices.
- Oracy and communication, enabling children to express their ideas with confidence and respect.

- Forest School and outdoor learning, nurturing curiosity and stewardship for creation.
- The arts, music, and literature, developing imagination and empathy.
- History, geography and science, promoting understanding of cultures, the environment and the interconnectedness of God's world.

Promoting Fundamental British and Gospel Values

At St Clare's we promote British values within our Catholic mission, recognising that Gospel values and British values complement one another. Pupils learn about:

- Democracy, through class votes, School Council elections and pupil voice.
- The Rule of Law, through clear behaviour expectations and understanding fairness and justice.
- Individual Liberty, through personal choice, responsibility and recognising that true freedom comes with respect for others.
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance, through learning about and valuing different beliefs, backgrounds and cultures.

Our pupils understand that following Jesus means standing up for what is right and working together for the Common Good.

Community Links

St Clare's has strong partnerships with the parish, local schools and community organisations. These include:

- Fundraising for CAFOD, Mary's Meals and local charities.
- Participation in parish liturgies, feast days and community events.
- Links with the Anthony Walker Foundation and Peace Foundation to promote inclusion and justice.
- Projects such as the Live Simply Award, Rights Respecting Schools, and Liverpool Hearts Project to strengthen social understanding and compassion.

Through these experiences, pupils live out their faith in action and learn to be responsible global citizens.

Monitoring and Evaluation

SMSC provision is reviewed annually by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher (Personal Development), and Governors.

Monitoring includes:

- Lesson observations and pupil voice discussions.
- Collective Worship evaluations.
- Curriculum audits and subject leader reviews.
- Parental and pupil questionnaires.

- Governor visits focusing on Catholic Life and SMSC.

Findings are shared with staff and governors and used to inform the School Development Plan and Self-Evaluation Form (SEF).