

## **St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School**

### **Policy for Spiritual and Moral Development**

Moral issues involve making decisions on the basis of what is right and wrong. It promotes goodness and minimises bad choices.

Fundamental to moral development is the individual's:

- Ability and will to behave morally as a point of principle
- Knowledge and adherence to the codes and conventions of conduct agreed by society and by the rules and guidance of one's religion
- An appropriate response will be made which allows for reflection on a personal level.

Children need to be introduced from an early age to concepts of right and wrong so that moral behaviour becomes an instinctive way of behaving. For this reason, St. Patrick's supports the families of our children, where morality is first taught and seeks to nurture and develop the moral conscience of each child.

Like spiritual development, moral development encompasses all aspects of school life, it is not the prerogative of one subject. The knowledge and understanding essential to both spiritual and moral development, and the ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements should be developed through all subjects of the curriculum and through the school's code of behaviour.

The ethos of St. Patrick's, which reflects the values and attitudes we seek to promote is expressed in our Mission Statement which is the foundation of our school community.

Through the living out of our Mission Statement we seek to:

- Create a community where Gospel values produce an atmosphere of justice and love in all aspects of school life and work.
- Develop a personal sense of morality in relation to self and others and to issues of local, national and world matters.
- Make value judgements on what is right and wrong and to be responsible for the consequences of actions.

Our R.E. programme strongly encourages the development of a moral conscience, aims to promote good moral decisions through a positive and encouraging approach. It promotes the development of:

- Self discipline
- Taking personal responsibility for ones actions
- Respecting the rights and propert of others
- Being truthful
- Keeping promises
- Helping those less fortunate and weaker than ourselves

It discourages:

- Bullying
- Cheating
- Deceit
- Cruelty
- Irresponsibility
- Dishonesty
- Lack of respect for persons or objects

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Co-ordinator: Mrs M Potts

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