

# S Finbar's Catholic Primary School

**Type:  
Policy Document**

**Moral Education  
Policy**

**Lead:  
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## Mission Statement

Praising God in every way;  
in all we think, do and say



We at St Finbar's aim to respect and value all those involved in contributing to the life of our school.

Our purpose, which is founded upon Catholic principles, is to provide a secure, happy and creative environment in which children grow spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, seeking and celebrating a personal best.

We promote strong relationships with families and parish, whilst fostering local and wider world awareness - creating future good citizens enabling them to grow through this Mission in action.



## Aims of Religious Education

### Curriculum Aim

The staff of St.Finbar's will work to give each child full access to a broad and balanced curriculum, encouraging each individual a sense of self-worth and self-esteem. Opportunities are offered for children to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross-curricular studies to deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.

### Statement of intent

In St. Finbar's, our mission through Religious Education, is to give each individual child the opportunity to experience celebration, prayer and time for personal reflection. It is a collaborative subject which respects each child's own inner spiritual self, and it allows for wonder, awe, reverence and self-exploration. It is taught discretely and developmentally. It includes the deepening of knowledge, and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life.

Through 'Come and See' we, as a Catholic school, aim to develop our children's religious growth. We strive to give each child the opportunity to explore the language of religious experience - through stories, visitors, religious education visits, artefacts, religious activities, collective worship, I.C.T, drama, art and music.

As a school, we work as closely together as we can with home, our Parish Priest (Father John Southworth) and Parish communities of (Our Lady of St. Carmel Church) so that we can present the Christian event, message and way of life in a systematic way with regard to each individual child and their potential.

For us, Religious Education is for all. Religious Education is as academically respected as other core curriculum areas. Within the classroom, teachers use a variety of styles and strategies, to reinforce the Christian message we as a Catholic school uphold.

St. Finbar's motto - 'Praising God in every way, in all we think, do and say. Amen.'

Through our school motto and our children's experience of belonging to a caring community, we offer our children a strong sense of self-worth and an awareness of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

We include appropriate materials about our Other Faith - Judaism and World Religions and we encourage our children to be tolerant and respectful towards other faiths and religions. Engagement with their own and others beliefs and values will help develop and nurture good attitudes and dispositions so that children are instilled with a love of learning and a desire to go on learning. In St. Finbar's we aim to foster a loving relationship between our children, staff and members of the school community. This relationship reflects the commandment of Jesus 'to love one another as I have loved you.'

Engagement with difficult questions of meaning and purpose which everyone has to face enables our children to think critically about their own questions of meaning and purpose.

Our outcome for Religious Education from the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools 2012: '... is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills-appropriate to their age and capacity - to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life. '

### **Rationale**

Moral education is concerned with developing a child's ability to distinguish right from wrong, to make appropriate choices and to act upon them from conviction. Personal morality combines the beliefs and value of the individual, those of the social, cultural and religious groups to which he/she belongs and the laws and customs of the wider society.

## **Purpose**

To ensure that pupils understand the difference between right and wrong and the importance of striving to do right. This understanding will:

1. Inform pupils' thinking and actions and help them exercise their will in resisting temptation;
2. Prompt the constant attempt to become a better person,
3. Increase fellow feeling and the willingness to make an effort to understand others;
4. Build pupils' respect for themselves, others, their society and their environment;
5. Enable pupils to engage in effective moral reasoning;
6. Help pupils see that weakness, failure and fault belong to the human condition, but we should try to overcome them.

## **Broad Guidelines**

All adults should have:

- humility and willingness to question their own beliefs and actions;
- confidence in themselves;
- general goodwill and concern for their pupils;
- willingness to review their actual and potential contribution to pupils' moral development;
- a commitment to making that contribution

In order to promote pupils moral development, it is essential that the values of St Finbar's Catholic Primary School are shared with pupils.

## **Moral education will be promoted by:**

1. Fostering positive school values which include:
  - honesty
  - reliability
  - respecting the rights and property of others
  - acting considerably and courteously towards others
  - helping those less fortunate or weaker
  - taking personal responsibility for one's actions
  - self-discipline
2. Rejecting and reflecting upon negative attitudes which include:
  - bullying
  - dishonesty and cheating
  - deceit
  - cruelty
  - irresponsibility

For additional guidance please see the Behaviour Policy and the Anti Bullying Policy

