

# S Finbar's Catholic Primary School

**Type:  
Policy Document**

**Spiritual 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**

Spiritual development is fundamental to the development of the individual. It is not confined to religious beliefs, although we, as a Catholic school, seek to help the development of a personal belief. It seeks to foster curiosity without which there would be no motivation to learn, self-understanding and relationships with other people without which we cannot function in society, a sense of awe, wonder and creativity and the search for means and purpose in life.

## **Purpose**

To ensure that pupils' experiences, at least in school, are conducive to spiritual growth so that:

1. Pupils are open and responsive, aware of their self-worth, uniqueness, identity, gifts and talents and are able to celebrate their own and others' achievements;
2. Pupils are trusting, in themselves, in others and in God;
3. Pupils are willing to engage, to take responsibility and to do what is right with courage and hope;
4. Pupils will be able to love others, be generous in spirit and respond well to hardship, limitation, frustration and loss.
5. Pupils have a sense of awe, wonder and mystery and an understanding of the quality of silence and awareness.
6. Pupils develop a sense of the Natural World; dark, light, bread/food, trees, sky, wind, water, earth.

## **Broad Guidelines**

Through our life in school and our curriculum, we will offer:

- Positive and realistic examples;
- Positive role models;
- Opportunities for discussion;
- Support and advice;
- Personal target setting.

Spiritual education will be promoted by developing:

1. An attitude to life based on:
  - A development of personal beliefs including religious beliefs;
  - An appreciation that people have both individual and shared beliefs on which they base their lives;
  - A growing awareness of the way in which personal understanding contributes to personal identity;
  - An understanding that one's inner resources provide the ability to rise above everyday experiences.
2. A sense of awe, wonder and creativity inspired by:
  - The natural world
  - Mystery
  - Human achievement with the arts and science
3. A search for meaning and purpose in life by:
  - Developing appropriate responses to the challenging experiences of life such as beauty, suffering and death;
  - Being concerned by injustice and aggression and their effect on others;
  - A growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to use such feelings as a source of growth and human experience;

#### 4. Self-awareness and relationships by:

- Developing self-respect;
- Fostering an appreciation of the individuality of others;
- Recognising that every individual has worth;
- Building up relationships with others;
- Fostering a sense of community.