



**ST BERNARD'S PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL**

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

**ADVENT 2018**

# **St. Bernard's Preparatory School**

## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

### **Mission Statement**

**With God as our shelter and Christ as our guide, the mission of St Bernard's Preparatory School is to educate towards love and service to God, each other and the wider community. Through our broad balanced curriculum we will develop an understanding of each faith and the values we share. We will treat each person with respect, knowing we are special and unique.**

**St Bernard's is part of the St Benedict's family of schools. All schools in the group share a similar Catholic and Benedictine/Bernardine ethos.**

### **Children's Mission Statement**

**We follow God's footsteps through our love, work and our prayer.**

### **PHILOSOPHY OF THE POLICY**

In the light of our School Mission Statement we understand spiritual development as a growing awareness about the inner self, our unique vocation and the world of which we are part: spirituality is our insight into the real meaning of life and our power to live it.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Each individual, created by God, is a spiritual being. The spiritual part of us is common to everyone, whatever our race or religion, and we recognise we are at different stages of development, different stages of our faith journey.
- 'Spiritual' is not synonymous with 'religious', all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development. At St. Bernard's we celebrate our personal spirituality through the traditions and rites of the Catholic Church as our religious context. We celebrate, respect, value and develop the spirituality of each person in our school community.

## **THE REALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

- The potential for spiritual development is open to everyone and fundamental to learning. Curiosity, the inclination to question, the exercise of imagination, insight and intuition motivate learning and intellectual development.
- We recognise the value of relationships, that each person is a person of worth and the importance of sustaining the self-esteem of pupils in their learning experiences and staff in their teaching and/or contribution to school life.
- We involve the school in the spiritual life of:
  1. families, by open invitations to our Assemblies, Masses and Liturgies.
  2. the parish, by open invitations to all the clergy and visiting the children's parishes as often as possible, and lastly
  3. the wider church, through communication with our Bishop and Diocese, visiting the cathedral and involving ourselves with all Church directives and teaching.

## **OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

- To provide opportunities for the expression of imagination, inspiration, insight, empathy and understanding throughout the curriculum.
- To encourage the setting aside of a time when pupils can reflect upon being inspired by the natural world, mystery or human achievement – a sense of awe and wonder.
- To explore art images, music and drama as a means of spiritual interpretation and expression
- To promote opportunities of stillness, meditation, silence and reflection ensuring that questioning, self-awareness and self-knowledge are encouraged.
- To celebrate our spirituality together using the special nature of our Bernardine sisters in school Masses, Liturgies, Assemblies, hymn practices and retreats. (Refer to the Liturgy and Prayer policy.)
- To foster the emotional lives of our pupils particularly with regard to the experience of feelings. This further links with our PSHE curriculum.
- To value our Bernardine roots and the continuing input and support of all the Bernardine community.
- To recognise that the quality of our school environment reflects our spiritual nature. Our displays, religious artefacts, signs and symbols and prayer corners are all outward signs of our spirituality.
- To extend an open invitation for all to share in the school's spiritual life.

## **ORGANISATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

- Each member of our community has a unique part to play in our school spiritual journey.
- This policy will be discussed and reviewed by the whole staff.

## **RESOURCES**

- Particular resources for developing spirituality are to be found in the central RE resources.

**Applies to:**

Whole School including Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

**Related Policies:**

Religious Education, Community Cohesion, Home School Parish Liaison, Liturgy and Prayer, Moral Social Cultural Development, Chaplaincy.

**Availability**

This policy is made available to parents on our website [www.stbernardsprep.org](http://www.stbernardsprep.org) or a copy may be obtained from the school office on request.

**Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Headmaster.

The Trustees will undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than two years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Headmaster \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_