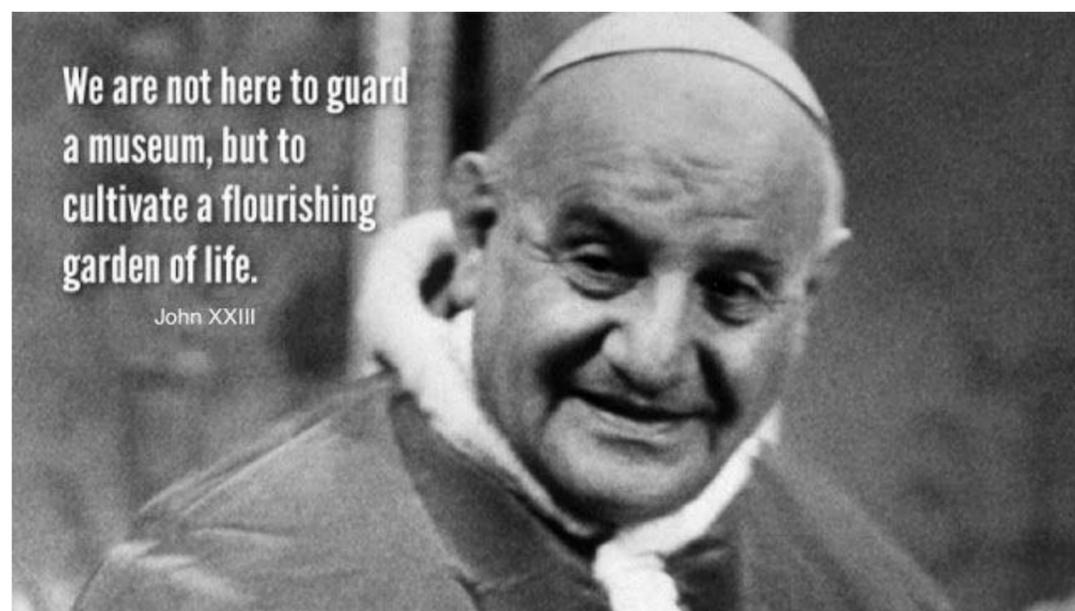


# Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural Life at St Michael & St Martin Catholic Primary School



At St Michael & St Martin, we believe in building a community of caring, compassionate, respectful and highly motivated children who will grow up into strong members of society.

Our school curriculum is planned to support this, and enriched with a wealth of opportunities for pupils to learn and play together, to take part in a wide variety of cultural activities, and to mix with people of other ages, cultures and faiths in order to develop understanding and interest in the world.



The **spiritual** development of our pupils is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Spiritual development is the development of the non-material element of a human being which animates and sustains us and, depending on our point of view; either ends or continues in some form when we die. It is about the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose. It is about the development of a pupil's "spirit, personality or character".

### **Spiritual – belief, kindness, awe and wonder, reflection**

This can be seen in our school through:

- Our Mission Statement, 'Learning our faith, Living our faith, Loving our faith.' Keeping our faith at the forefront of all we do, our children learn, live and love through following in the footsteps of Jesus.
- Prayer life in our school – our children prepare and lead weekly Collective Acts of worships in their class; KS2 children are given the opportunity to prepare and lead Gospel Assemblies for the school; regular opportunities of Catholic meditation; regular celebration assemblies and liturgies.
- Frequent opportunities to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist in KS2, as well as Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.
- Children's work in their RE books and displays around the school give clear insight into the spiritual development of our children.
- Religious Education lessons deepen our children's understanding of their faith through use of Scripture and what we can learn from the life of Jesus.
- Our bespoke curriculum is exciting and engaging, providing many opportunities for children to experience awe and wonder in their learning, across all subjects.
- Learning about other faiths fosters a sense of equality and respect for all members of our wider community, with visits to other places of worship allowing children to find out more about how other faiths worship God.
- Our Prayer Garden is used for Collective Acts of Worship and role play sessions by all classes in the school.

The **moral** development of our pupils is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England

- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

Moral development is about the building, by pupils, of a framework of moral values, which regulates their personal behaviour. It is also about the development of pupils' understanding of society's shared and agreed values. It is about understanding that there are issues where there is disagreement and it is also about understanding that society's values change. Moral development is about gaining an understanding of the range of views and the reasons for the range. It is also about developing an opinion about the different views.

Moral – lesson learned, environment, eco team, nature, peace, world help, rights and responsibilities

This can be seen in our school through:

- The outstanding behavior of the children at our school, both in the classroom and around the school.
- The relationships between staff, children and one another demonstrate respect and tolerance at all levels.
- Our Behaviour Policy reminds children to make the right choices, as well as the consequences of their actions – both good and bad.
- Children who require additional support for behavior can access mental health and well-being programmes available at school, including the use of our 'Sparkle Room'.
- Our curriculum offers many opportunities to reflect on behavior as well as discuss and debate on moral and ethical issues., for example, Year 6 learn about Crime and Punishment and visit the Tower of London, and Year 3 learn about Our Seas and Oceans and the current environmental issues that are having an impact on our world today.

The **social** development of pupils is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; they develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

Social development is about young people working effectively with each other and participating successfully in the community as a whole. It is about the development of the skills and personal qualities necessary for living and working together. It is about functioning effectively in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society. It involves growth in knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects. This includes understanding people as well as understanding society's institutions, structures and characteristics, economic and political principles and organisations, roles and responsibilities and life as a citizen, parent and worker in the community. It also involves the development of the interpersonal skills necessary for successful relationships.

Social – community, people around you, discussion, how to get on, citizenship, friendship skills, keeping safe

This can be seen in our school through:

- The democratic election of the School Council and the Chaplaincy Team at the beginning of the year.
- Fundraising for local, national and global charities – families at St Michael & St Martin give generously to a monthly foodbank collection, a shoebox appeal at Christmas as well as various charitable appeals throughout the year, including fundraisers for Shelter and CAFOD.
- Participation in sporting events and music festivals have enabled our children to socialise with children outside of their own school community.
- Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) support children to develop their social skills and apply these to a range of different contexts.
- Carefully planned school trips and visitors to the school.
- Weekly Achievement Assembly celebrates children's achievements both inside and outside school.

The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different

religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Cultural development is about pupils' understanding their own culture and other cultures in their town, region and in the country as a whole. It is about understanding cultures represented in Europe and elsewhere in the world. It is about understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and being able to operate in the emerging world culture of shared experiences provided by television, travel and the internet. It is about understanding that cultures are always changing and coping with change. Promoting pupils' cultural development is ultimately linked with schools' attempts to value cultural diversity and prevent racism.

Cultural – people around the world, environment, different countries, faiths/religions

This can be seen in our school through:

- Our diverse school community and the way in which our children interact with each other in a positive and respectful manner.
- Our bespoke curriculum provides meaningful opportunities for the children to learn about people from history, different cultures and backgrounds.
- Learning about Social Justice 'Laudato Si' Care of our Common Home' and how our actions impact on people in poorer countries around the world.
- Languages Week celebrates the array of languages spoken in our school and ends with a celebration assembly where each class does a short performance in a language they have been focusing on that week.

At St Michael & St Martin, SMSC is sometimes taught discretely, and sometimes through other subjects. It is interwoven with the drive to promote positive relationships with all people, tolerance and respect. We hope that our pupils will grow into confident, responsible, respectful and active members of society who are able to take their place in the world and go on to achieve great and exciting things.

*Learning our faith, living our faith, loving our faith*