

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School



Moral Development Policy

Introduction

Moral education helps pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong. The word 'moral' is concerned with fundamental judgements about how we should behave or act and our reasons for such behaviour. It is of the greatest importance that children develop a clear set of rules of conduct, which draw on the basic moral values and which can be applied to everyday situations. Because of this, we revised our school Behaviour Policy in 2022 and we have recently launched our revised Gospel Values through our Mission Day in July 2025.

Our revised Behaviour Policy concentrates heavily on distinguishing between right and wrong, supporting children to use their moral understanding to help guide them along the right path. It is heavily woven in a restorative approach as we believe that children need teaching and guidance about the right way to live as well as academic teaching.

Our revised Gospel Values are:

Love
Wisdom
Hope
Respect
Fairness
Fellowship
Service
Courage

These are used on a daily basis by all members of staff, when applying the restorative approach in behavioural contexts as well as to commend those who choose the right path.

Aims of moral development:

1. As they develop a sense of morality, pupils should become more adept at exploring reason in ethical matters.
2. To develop pupils who are more autonomous moral agents.
3. Pupils should begin to acquire value systems, which are personal rather than simply transmitted by others.
4. Pupils should begin to develop beliefs and values.

Through Moral Education, we develop knowledge of:

1. How communities are organised and the importance of rules and laws.
2. How communities reconcile the needs of individuals with those of society.
3. Similarities and differences between individuals, groups and communities.
4. Fairness, justice and moral responsibility.

Cross-Curricular Skills

1. Arguing a case clearly and concisely.
2. Making choices in the light of available evidence.
3. Working with others.

Attitudes

1. Independence of thought on social and moral issues.
2. Respect for the processes of law and right of others.
3. Respect for different ways of life, beliefs, opinions and ideas.
4. A willingness to respect rational argument and non-violent ways of resolving conflict.
5. A constructive interest in community affairs.
6. An active concern for human rights.
7. An appreciation of the importance of democratic decision-making.

Moral codes and Values – Pupils should be helped to:

1. Develop a personal moral code and explore values and beliefs.
2. Develop a concern for others.
3. Develop self-respect and respect values such as industry, honesty and truthfulness.

Pupils should be given the opportunity to:

1. Compare values and beliefs held by themselves and others.
2. Examine evidence, opinions and form conclusions.
3. Discuss differences and resolve conflicts.
4. Discuss and consider solutions to personal, social and moral dilemmas.
5. Appreciate that the distinction between right and wrong is not always straight forward.