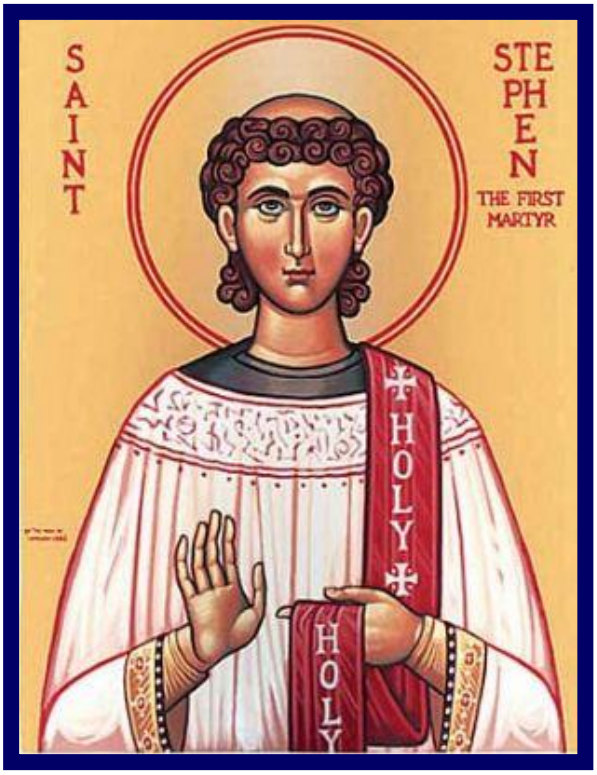
ST. STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Spirituality Development Policy 2026/27

'Love like Jesus. Learn like Jesus. Live like Jesus.'

Rationale:

Spiritual education helps pupils to acquire insights into their personal existence. It is concerned with how the individual acquires personal beliefs and values. It questions whether life has purpose and is the basis for personal and social behaviour questions which are at the heart and root of existence. It is characterised by reflection, the attribution of meaning to experience, the valuing of a non-material dimension to life and imitations of an enduring reality. Spiritual development is vital to the holistic development of all pupils. It seeks to foster curiosity, without which there would be no motivation to learn, self-understanding and relationships with other people so that we can function in society, a sense of awe, wonder and creativity and the search for means and purpose in life. This also helps pupils to develop a spiritual awareness and understanding of belonging to a school and parish community.

Aims:

At St Stephen's Catholic Primary School, we believe that spiritual development is rooted in Christ's mission, "that all may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10). This involves the ongoing development of the entire potential of each individual made in the image and likeness of God and finding fulfilment in God alone.

Pupils' spirituality is promoted and developed through the entire educative process but especially through the distinctive Catholic nature of the school, the curriculum – particularly Religious Education and Prayer and Liturgy.

We aim to develop spirituality through: -

- The development of insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values which guide and motivate us which are underpinned by Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Developing understanding of feelings and emotions which causes us to reflect and to learn.
- Pupils developing recognition that their insights, principles, beliefs, attitudes and values influence, inspire or guide them 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 of quality of silence and awareness

Guidelines for Spiritual Education within school:

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.

Practice:

Developing each person's spirituality is the responsibility of the whole school community.

At St Stephen's Catholic Primary School, opportunities for the promotion of spiritual development include:

- Daily acts of prayer and liturgy
- The teaching of Religious Education through *'To Know You More Clearly'*
- Citizenship and British values
- Circle time
- Questioning and exploring the meaning of experience
- Cross-curricular approaches where appropriate
- Drama
- Music
- Reflections
- Sacramental preparations
- Retreat Days
- Liturgical celebrations
- Planned visits to church
- Within the teaching of other faiths
- Visits and visitors to school
- The implementation and delivery of Journey in Love

We address spirituality implicitly through:

- Actions
- Relationships and personal interactions, both individually and together
- Unspoken expectations expressed in tone of voice, posture, facial expressions, etc
- The living-out of our school ethos led by our mission statement
- Opportunities to explore the school's Mission Statement during a day of exploration and celebration when we review our Mission Statement.

Reviewed: **Autumn Term 2026**
Next Review: **Autumn Term 2027**