

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



SMSC Policy

Updated October 2019

**Learning and Loving
Caring and Sharing
through
The message of Christ**



St Mary's Catholic Primary School is a happy community where we are loved and valued as individuals.

As Disciples of Jesus, we learn together, pray together and celebrate together as one in God's love.

Together with parents/carers, the parish and the wider community, we prepare our children to live and build God's kingdom on earth.

RATIONALE:

As a Catholic School, we have an ethos in our school whereby the spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs of all within the school community are nurtured and supported. This is expressed through our response to the gospel call to love.

SPIRITUAL:

As a Catholic community, we strive to support the pupils in the development of their spiritual life, so that through reflection, pupils will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. We believe that this begins with experiencing the work of the living Christ and that once experienced this needs to be fostered and developed through:

- a sense of God's presence permeating the life of the school
- a wide variety and range of opportunities for individual, group and class prayer both indoors and outdoors.
- personal and community prayer (inviting parents to participate in Collective Worship, use of individual prayer journals)
- opportunities for age appropriate child- led collective acts of worship
- liturgies where pupils become aware of entering His presence
- hearing His word spoken in Scripture
- experiencing the community of the faithful (linking with parishes, joint class family Masses)
- celebration of the Mass
- a curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder
- quiet times of reflection, meditation
- opportunities to express personal views and insights whilst searching for the truth together

MORAL

At the heart of the Church's and the school's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God. We are called to reflect God's love for us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have been given the freedom to respond to His love. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is

crucial to our moral development. At St Mary's we believe:

- love is at the heart of the Catholic understanding of morality
- morality touches all aspects of the curriculum
- every free human action has a negative or positive influence on life
- individuals are created free by God to choose what is right or wrong
- forgiveness and reconciliation with God and each other is at the heart of how wrong choices are put right. All individuals must be treated with respect and without judgement.

SOCIAL

At St. Mary's we believe that it is part of the responsibility of the school to support pupils and their families, in the formation of good social attitudes. The school community will nurture our pupils to:

- learn about belonging to different groups and encourage a sense of calling, responsibility, ownership and duty.
- become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others to develop as confident and independent thinkers.
- Become aware of appropriate consistent, social behavior expectations in a range of situations within and beyond the classroom, e.g. READY, SAFE RESPECT school rules, playground buddies to support this.
- through the social organisation and the organisation of the classroom, gain opportunities to learn and develop appropriate social skills and attitudes, particularly through the effective use of Talk Partners and collaborative group work.
- participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co-operative skills that will help all to live with each other e.g. develop awareness of how Learning Powers support effective learning strategies.
- learn what it means to be a responsible and ethically informed citizen of Wales and the world, e.g. through rich learning opportunities and through the work of Pupil Voice groups such as the School Council and Eco Committee.

CULTURAL

Cultural development is the increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values and customs, knowledge and skills which taken

together form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups. Cultures grow and change; features of the past influence the present and will shape its future form. Pupils at St Mary's will:

- celebrate and value the customs held within our Catholic cultural tradition.
- be taught and value the customs and cultures represented within our school family
- be taught through a rich, holistic curriculum where there is a blend of experiences, knowledge and skills rooted in Welsh values and culture.

M & P Committee (Oct 2019)