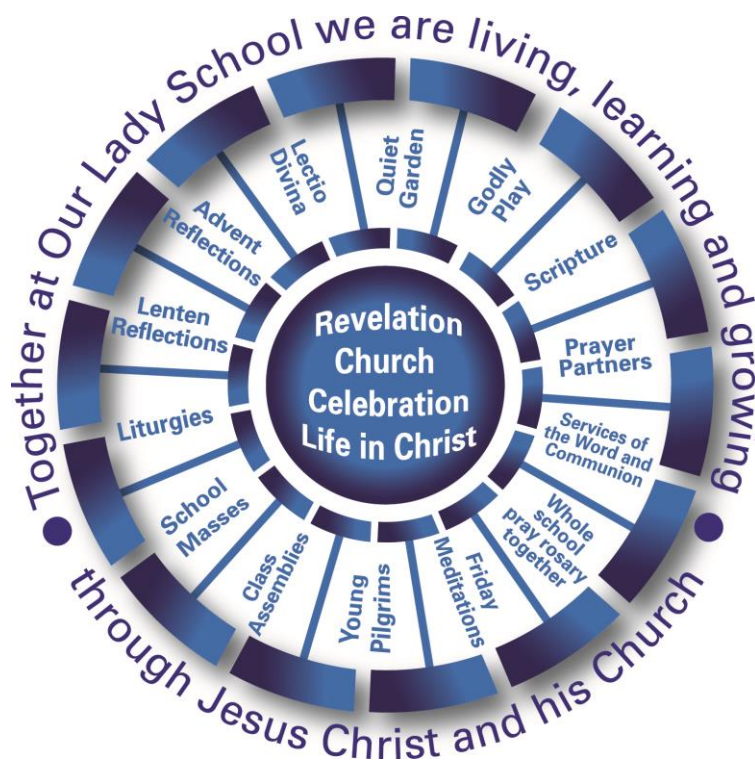




Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Spiritual & Moral Policy



The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust
A Catholic Academy

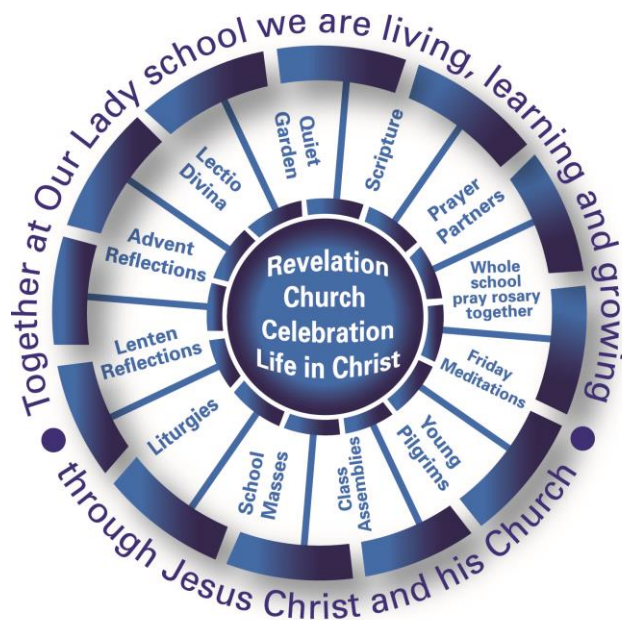
January 2020

Cross reference with United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including

Article 14 – every child has the right to think and believe what they want and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 28 – Every child has the right to an education

Article 29 – Education should develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for their own and other cultures.



At Our Lady Catholic Primary School is an inclusive school and we want our pupils to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens. We recognise the importance of both the academic and personal development and wellbeing of every child in our school. This includes recognising the importance of providing a range of opportunities for our pupils to respond to, that supports their spiritual, moral social and cultural development with an understanding that everyone is unique and what it means to be in a Rights Respecting School.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)

(NB whilst each dimension is outlined separately there is a great deal of overlap between the four areas.)

Spiritual Development

Spiritual Development: to be human is to be spiritual since human beings are more than the purely physical. For some the spiritual is intimately bound up with the belief in God, whilst for other it is bound up with the human spirit alone.

As a faith school Our Lady Catholic Primary school aims to provide a set of values based on the Catholic faith. Central to the Christian teaching is the love of God and the love of one's neighbour as oneself. We include Christian spiritual practices including prayer, worship, celebration of festivals and reading/reflection on the Bible with in Collective worship, RE and the wider curriculum – see our Catholic Life of the School.

We are committed to:

- Celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our pupils bring as part of their family/cultural heritage and to building an awareness of and respect for others' spiritual and religious beliefs.
- Fostering common human values and building spiritual capacities to promote self-worth
- Self-esteem and a valuing of others
- Helping our pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on ultimate questions.
- Developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a sense of awe and wonder.
- Providing an increased understanding of the Universal Church, believers in Jesus Christ worldwide.

Moral Development

Moral Development: knowing what is right and wrong and acting on it accordingly. We are committed to encouraging our pupils to:

- Be truthful and honest
- Respect the rights and property of others, their opinions and cultures, even when they are different from our own.
- Help others
- Solve differences of opinion in non-violent ways in line with the Catholic teaching

Consequently we reject all forms of bullying, cruelty, dishonesty, violence and discrimination.

Social Development

Social Development: developing an understanding of rights and responsibilities of living in a community – of being a responsible citizen. This is enhanced through our Rights Respecting agenda. We are committed to:

- Fostering the skill and qualities of team building through the development of self-confidence, co-operation, sensitivity to others, reliability, initiative and understanding.
- Providing an environment where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider community.
- ELG, school readiness

We use the social and emotion aspects of learning (SEAL) materials and our PSHCE to support our pupils' development.

Cultural Development

Cultural development: knowledge and understanding of own and others' cultural traditions. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the world by:

- Our commitment to an International Policy and promoting an awareness of cultures and religions of other than our own.
- Promoting an appreciation of our own cultural traditions and encouraging an appreciation of other people's cultural traditions.
- Celebrating the richness of culture and tradition.

In the light of this we will ensure that the SMSC development of our pupils is promoted across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school by:

- Providing an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- Maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution
- Encouraging teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to develop SMSC and to ensure subject leaders have an understanding of SMSC education in their subject.
- Recognising the importance of our collective worship programme in supporting and encouraging SMSC development
- Reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school development
- Our intake reflects the universality of the Catholic faith