



Policy Statement

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

At St Edmund's School we consider that our ethos aims to reflect our Mission Statement. We are asked to look closely at how we provide a basis for the spiritual and moral development of our pupils. In order to do this it is necessary to use our own understanding of God, which has been brought to us through the Gospels. It will be necessary to search for ways in which we can present the teachings of the Gospels to the society in which we live and, in so doing, enrich the quality of life for all those with whom we come in contact.

At St Edmunds we can evangelise by taking the Good News into the lives of our pupils by offering them a way to live and enjoy life to the full. In turn, the teaching of the Gospel enables a process of transformation to take place which is capable of countering materialism and the erosion of moral values. On this basis it is possible to set out a clearly defined aim for our school which is:

***In the light of the Christian vision of faith to
Help pupils grow and mature to full stature.***

With this in mind, the school in its approach to spiritual, moral, social and cultural education endeavours to live the gospel in the way influences everything done in the classroom and throughout school life. But how can we translate the gospel into everyday life of the school? As a staff member we have to be an example to the pupils in our care. They are influenced and educated simply by coming into contact with us who are striving to reflect Christ's teaching in our daily lives.

Achieving our aims.

- we must provide a spiritual dimension which seeks to counteract the conflict between our spiritual aspiration and the secular culture in which we live our daily lives.
- we need to encourage our pupils to reflect upon all of their attitudes, beliefs, and actions in the light of Catholic Teachings about good and evil.
- Do we ensure that morality is not presented as a set of rules but as a call to personal growth and responsibility?
- In seeking to establish an appropriate sense of self awareness in our pupils of their responses to experience, do we ourselves acknowledge a contribution to their spiritual development.
- Do we practice complete forgiveness in our school? Are pupils really enabled to live down their past?
- Do we work to ensure that the less able in the school are given the same dignity and self-esteem as those who are more able?
- In rewarding success, do we take great care to ensure that this is recognised at all levels of achievement?

- Do we seek sufficient means by which the majority of our students are able to succeed? (Not just to do with sport or learning).
- As a school, how do we make it known that individual students are valued for what they are and not what they do?
- Are students clear as to what kind of respect is required of them?
- Do we welcome and encourage parental partnership? How do we handle the false (and sometimes destructive) ambitions of parents for their children?
- How do we express the beatitudes in our life?
- How do we handle violence, aggression and unacceptable behaviour? Do we ever humiliate pupils?
- In what way do staff communicate with other staff, cleaners, school office, visitors?
- Do we help students to cope with the possibility of disappointments in life?
- Do we treat the power of authority in the Gospel terms of enabling pupils to reach their full potential or is it simply used to control?
- Do we propose conformity as an ideal or are we open to freedom and individuality?
- Do we help our students to become critically aware of society?
- To what extent is our school involved in the neighbourhood?

Our role in Catholic Education today has been determined greatly by the events and teachings of the Second Vatican Council and it is in its documents that there are two particular reflections.

- a. God is present and working within the life of every single member of human kind loving each one, not just into existence and preserving each; but loving each on into salvation.
- b. As Jesus is God's gift to the world, so is the Church God's gift to human kind. As Jesus came among the people of his day, serving them and meeting their needs, so likewise today does the Church. Her vocation is to care not just for her own members but for everyone.

In the changing world of education introduced by recent Acts of Parliament, it would be easy to accept children into our school merely because they represent a source of income, without given due consideration to all that is presented in these preceding paragraphs. We have a duty and commitment to those parents who entrust their children to our care. However, it is our responsibility to inform parents professionally, of the school's expectations and standards and then through negotiation and discussion, to establish the ground rules for life at the school.

All this must be accomplished through our Mission Statement, Aims, Objectives and Development Plan which in total make up our approach to spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.

Reviewed September 2007