



St Alban's

Catholic Primary and Nursery School

Member of St Clare's Catholic Multi Academy Trust, Diocese of Hallam

Let God's love shine in our lives as we grow and learn together

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

SMSC POLICY

Approved by:	Local Academy Committee	Date:
Last reviewed on:	17 th September 2024	
Next review due by:	September 2025	

Context

St Alban's is an average sized Catholic Primary and Nursery School, a member of St Clare CMAT, Diocese of Hallam and works closely with the Catholic Dearne Valley Family of Schools as well as the Sheffield Catholic Schools who are part of St Clare Trust. Our mission as a Catholic school is to create and develop a community centred upon the teaching of Jesus Christ where all individuals are enabled to reach their full potential in all elements of their lives. Our age range is 2 to 11 with 237 on roll, 187 FTE R – Y6. St Alban's Nursery opened in September 2021, and is led by teachers and experienced qualified Early Years practitioners and has continued to grow in numbers and extended to meet the Government Childcare reforms of 15 hours for 2 year olds for working families. St Alban's serves the local parishes of St Alban's Catholic Church of Denaby and Conisbrough and Blessed English Martyrs, Mexborough all of which are in the city of Doncaster. 75% of our children come from families in the 10% most deprived in the country and is one of the 10 most deprived schools in Doncaster with a changing profile of number of Catholics attending, currently 52% Christians on roll. In recent years, there have been children with more complex needs attending. St Alban's has 41% Pupil Premium children and a higher than average proportion of children with SEN at 35%, most of whom have speech, language and communication (63%) and/or social, emotional and mental health (27%) needs. 44% of children within our current Reception class have significant and complex needs, mainly ASD. Most children at St Alban's are of White British heritage, with a lower than average proportion of children with EAL at 3.23%. St Alban's has lower than national levels of stability and since January 2021 there has been over 40% increase in the number on roll and increasing mobility factors. COVID significantly impacted on attendance and resulted in 27.8% children persistently absent in 21/22 with a 91.9% attendance rate in 21/22. During the school year 22/23, attendance improved significantly and higher than the national primary rate reaching 94.03%, an increase of 2.13% on 21/22 and a reduction to 19.6% persistent absentees. In May 2024, mid-year attendance was at 95.2% and persistent absenteeism 15.5% demonstrating the schools continuous attempt to increase attendance and reduce persistent absence over time.

Aims of Spiritual, Moral, social and Cultural Development at St Alban's Catholic Primary and Nursery School

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils is paramount. It encompasses every aspect of school life and is a daily occurrence. Our collective worship, assemblies and individual class worship, promote SMSC for each child.

The class teacher is a vital resource, who encourages positive attitudes in the classroom and is seen as the main role model concerning moral development. A teacher ensures that each child has an enriching and secure environment, where they feel safe to ask questions concerning their own search for spirituality.

At St. Albans, we recognise that our children’s spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is central to everything that we are.

Policy for Spiritual Development

Spiritual development at S. Albans is an exploration into what is involved in becoming human’. Through our schools Mission Statement, ethos, visions, values and curriculum, we aim to provide children with holistic learning experiences and opportunities to discover the life skills they need and rich learning opportunities to last a life time.

Children will have a wealth of knowledge from ‘Come and See’ and ‘Collective Worship’ frameworks. Our vision is for children to use this knowledge and apply it to feeling the presence of God in their lives to enrich their spiritual development.

Aims of Spiritual Development at St Alban’s Catholic Primary School

Our aims for spiritual development at St. Albans:

- **Our climate and ethos encourage children to ask and make sense of their questions concerning spirituality.**
- **Through the three main areas of school life - ethos, collective worship and all subjects of the curriculum, we, as teachers, will re – affirm and put into practice our own spiritual development.**

Intent of Spiritual Development

Our objectives for spiritual development at St. Albans

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- **To explore personal and community prayer.**
- **To take part in quiet times of reflection, that may or may not be religious.**
- **To develop a sense of God’s presence permeating the life of the school.**
- **To hear and respond to the Good News through Scripture.**
- **To develop a sense of awe and wonder.**
- **To express personal values, views and insights**
- **Show respect for themselves and for others**
- **To provide children with the support to deal with challenging life experiences – sickness, bereavement.**

Some of our curricular and extra-curricular activities to support spiritual development at Sacred Heart are:

- Liturgies where children become aware of entering into the presence of God
- Large group and class collective worship daily, providing range and quality to prayer life.
- Effective use of the Come and See programme
- Participation and active response encouraged through involvement in the planning, leadership and evaluation of worship.
- Provide opportunities for reflection and exploration of their own beliefs.
- Celebration of Mass on Feast/Holy Days
- Staff reflections as part of weekly staff meetings

Policy for Moral Development

Moral education and development at St. Alban's is, "helping pupils to acquire knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong".

Aims of Moral Development at St Alban's Catholic Primary School

Our aims for moral development at St. Albans:

- Provide a moral framework based on Gospel values and the teachings of the Church through which children develop a sense of morality.
- That through the three main areas of school life - ethos, collective worship and all subjects of the curriculum, we, as teachers, will re – affirm and put into practice our own moral development.
- We endeavour to support children in making moral decisions through teaching them right from wrong, and based on their personal values.

Intent of Moral Development

Our objectives for moral development at St. Alban's:

- Love is at the heart of the Catholic understanding of morality.
- Ensure that morality touches all aspects of the curriculum.
- We create Individuals who are free by God to choose what is right or wrong.
- Reinforce the moral teachings of the Church through a loving and caring community.
- Help our children gain an intuitive sense of right and wrong and to have respect for themselves and others.

Some of our curricular and extra-curricular activities to support spiritual development at St. Albans:

- **Effective use of the Come and See curriculum.**
- **Knowledge and understanding of our mission statement.**
- **An awareness of school rules and values.**
- **Class and school reward systems to celebrate achievement, success, kindness and friendship. This can be celebrated in school assemblies.**
- **Groups of children given work with the school learning mentor, to aid with the development of a moral code of conduct.**
- **Emotional Intelligence embedded throughout school life.**
- **Pupil Councillors.**
- **Prayer Leaders**
- **Year 5/6 Play leaders on the playground**
- **Pastoral support - Counsellor from Diocese of Hallam Caring Services – Juliett Barrott**
- **Chaplain from St. Pius – Anne Reynolds**
- **Prayer clubs**

Policy for Social and Cultural Development

Social and cultural development at St. Albans is based on the Gospel teaching of justice, freedom and peace.

Aims of Cultural Development at St Alban's Catholic Primary School

Our aims for social and cultural development at St. Albans:

- **To promote social and cultural development through a caring and supportive learning environment.**
- **As teachers, model working alongside others, showing care and concern for others in school and in the wider community.**
- **Children to develop social and cultural skills to become polite, thoughtful and considerate individuals.**

Intent of Cultural Development

Our objectives for social and cultural development at St. Albans:

In order to promote social and cultural development we provide opportunities for pupils to:

- **Children to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.**

- Use programmes of Come and See and Collective Worship to develop their social and cultural skills.
- Develop their roles as citizens - Peer mentoring, pupil councillor fundraising, other charitable acts.
- Begin to understand the Christian responsibility for social justice
- Show concern and empathy for the less fortunate.
- Be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop sense of responsibility for others.
- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Denaby, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, Diocese of Hallam, Britain, and the world and how these influence individuals and society.

We want the children to grow in understanding and respect for the beliefs of others in order to promote peace in our world. The Come and See programme acknowledges that we live in a multi-faith, multi-cultural society and makes links with the experience of other faiths. Twice a year, one week of Religious Education curriculum time is spent exploring the experience of other faith traditions. We explore the religions of Judaism and Islam. Visitors are encouraged and welcomed into school to enhance the pupil's understanding of the wider community.

Monitoring and Evaluation Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:

- Monitoring of lesson plans, teaching and learning and books, by RE Co-ordinators and SLT
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings
- Sharing of classroom work and practice
- Regular inclusion on School Improvement Plan