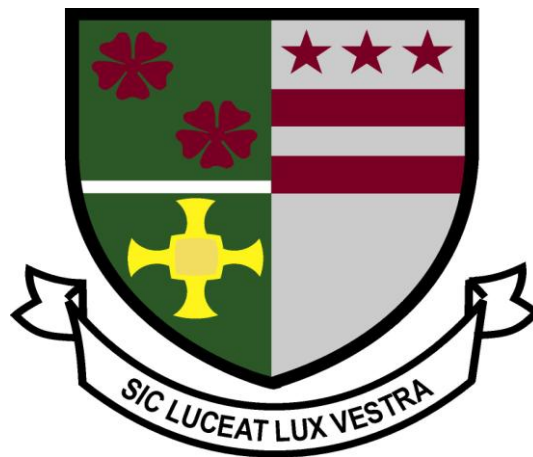


**St. Robert of Newminster Catholic**  
**School**  
**and**  
**Sixth Form College**



**Spiritual and Moral Development policy  
2010-2011**

**Review Date: November 2011**

## St. Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth form College

### Spiritual and Moral Development Policy 2010-2011

#### **Introduction**

All individuals are children of God, created equally in God's image to share an eternal future. We the staff at St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College promise to play our full part in the education and formation of the whole school community.

#### **School Mission Statement**

We strive to meet the academic, moral, physical, social and spiritual needs of all pupils so that they may take their place as caring, committed, self-aware and self-confident adult members of society.

#### **Aims of School**

1. To offer to all students a broad, balanced appropriate relevant and flexible curriculum
2. To develop as an integral part of the local community and in particular the local Catholic community
3. To develop and maintain the partnership between school and parents, parishes, primary schools and the wider community
4. To develop as a worshipping community in which prayer and liturgy are encouraged as part of faith development
5. To encourage all members of our school community, students, parents, staff and governors to follow the example of Jesus Christ in their daily work and relationships; to treat one another with justice, dignity, tolerance and respect and to be aware of and respond to each others needs, hopes and aspirations
6. To provide and maintain an attractive, happy, secure, safe and healthy school environment

#### **Definition of Spiritual and Moral Development**

The terms **spiritual and moral** need to be seen as applying to something fundamental in the human condition which is not necessarily experienced through the physical senses and/or expressed through everyday language. It has to do with relationships with other people and for believers with God. It has to do with the universal search for individual identity, with our responses to challenging experiences, such as death, suffering, beauty and encounters with good and evil. It is to do with the search for meaning and purpose in life and for the values by which we live. Those who are **developing spiritually and morally** will be growing, learning and striving throughout their lives to fulfil their potential as

individuals and as human beings. It is in the pursuit of greater understanding, especially of fundamental human experiences such as love, despair, pride, loneliness, grief and joy and of our emotional response to such experiences, that the human capacity to transcendence may be found. Such experiences, which have informed and are generated through great literature, poetry, art, architecture, music, in scientific and mathematical proofs and in religious observance are accessible in principle to every human being.

### **Aim and Rationale**

Students and staff will be encouraged throughout the curriculum to develop **spiritual capacities** which will enable them to grow spiritually, explore **spiritual experiences** develop **spiritual understanding** and express spiritual growth through **spiritual responses**. The Church believes that every part of the curriculum is religious since there is nothing which does not ultimately relate to God. 'The curriculum in all its aspects especially its content and delivery, must reflect the fact that Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school.' (Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School, A-2, 1994)

For the State: 'The Education Reform Act 1988 sets out as the central aim for the school curriculum that it promote the spiritual, moral, cultural mental and physical development of pupils and society, and prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.' (Para 1.DFE Circular 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship) The School and Sixth Form College should therefore aim to promote the spiritual and moral growth of all of its staff and students across the curriculum by providing for and encouraging opportunities for development.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of Spiritual and Moral Development will be to provide opportunities in the following

- ◆ To reflect on themselves, others and life's fundamental questions in order that students will develop honest, self-searching, wise choice and discerning commitment
- ◆ To exercise intellectual curiosity, testing their beliefs against others' and exploring sameness and differences
- ◆ To study and discuss the insights of the great teachers and philosophers

- ◆ To experience awe and wonder, to be moved by nature and by excellence in human achievement
- ◆ To exercise imagination and intuition in creative pursuits and in forming their academic work and daily life
- ◆ To discuss and debate insights, beliefs, ideas, emotions, feelings and experiences
- ◆ To engage in prayer, worship and reflection through the implementation of the Collective Worship Policy and provision of facilities and resources
- ◆ To use ICT to develop Spiritual and Moral Development across the whole school
- ◆ To report to governors about Spiritual and Moral Development across the whole school
- ◆ To provide ways in which the school can live out its intention of being a caring community which is mindful of the needs of the local community and the wider world
- ◆ To encourage students and staff throughout the curriculum to develop **spiritual capacities** which will enable them to grow spiritually, explore **spiritual experiences**, develop **spiritual understanding** and express spiritual growth through **spiritual responses**

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **a) Governors**

School governors are expected by the government to apply the legislation in full and in such a way as to lead to significant improvements in the quality of the spiritual and moral education provided.

### **b) Teachers**

All teachers have a responsibility of care, as well as fostering academic progress. They should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well being of their pupils. Appropriate training will be made available for staff.

### **c) Pupils**

Pupils will be expected to have concern for and accept responsibility for his/her knowledge and understanding of his/her development. They should be willing to hear the teaching of the church with regard to spiritual and moral issues and be aware of a variety of other views.

### **d) Parents**

Recognising that parents are the primary educators of their children the school will seek to support them in this task. Parents will be expected to support and not undermine the spiritual and moral education provided by the school.

### **e) The Wider Community**

The school will make appropriate use of external agencies and their personnel. All staff from external agencies will be asked to adhere to the Catholic ethos of the school.

## **Programme**

- ◆ Subject Leaders and Heads of Year will identify in all areas of the curriculum and the pastoral life of the School and Sixth form College, topics within their schemes of work and tutorial programmes which will offer opportunities for spiritual and moral development.
- ◆ All staff will actively promote and make explicit in their teaching and relationships with others the following values:
  1. Respect for everyone and everything associated with the school community
  2. Effective community relationships
  3. Professionalism
  4. Raising achievement for all
  5. The Catholic ethos of the school
- ◆ All staff will follow the agreed Code of Conduct:
  1. Value pupil's contributions to discussions
  2. Ensure that pupils are made aware that not all views have equal validity
  3. Encourage pupils to be open and reflective
  4. Prevent the undermining of the beliefs of others.
  6. Affirm the Catholic Christian values contained in the school's Mission Statement and Aims.
- ◆ The work of the Chaplaincy Team will be fully supported and funded by the school.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Monitoring**

**The Section 48 Co-ordinator will collate the evidence through the following:**

DHT Standards and Achievement, Subject leaders, DHT ECM, Heads of Year, Subject Leader of PSHE, Co-ordinator for Citizenship

### **Evaluation**

Once the monitoring of Moral and Spiritual Development provision has been completed, an evaluation of the current position regarding the opportunities provided by the school for the Moral and Spiritual Development of students will be made by the SLT. Plans for further development of provision will be made via the Head Teacher.

### **Guidelines**

**The guidelines to follow for the implementation of this policy can be found in the documents**

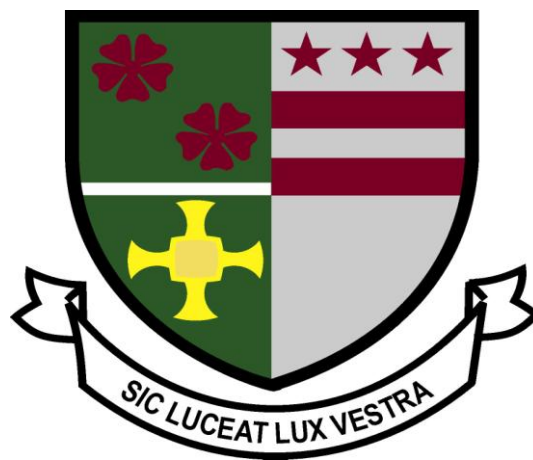
- ◆ **Evaluating the Distinctive Nature of a Catholic School, CES 1994**
- ◆ **Framework for the Inspection of Religious Education in Secondary and Middle Schools: Section 23 Inspection commencing 1997 Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle**

### **Policy Approval**

Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_ Mr J Waugh 29 November 2010.

Head Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Mr S. G. White 29 November 2010

**St. Robert of Newminster Catholic**  
**School**  
**and**  
**Sixth Form College**



**Collective Worship Policy**

2010-2011

**Review Date: November 2011**

## **St. Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth form College**

### **Policy for Collective Worship 2010-2011**

#### **Introduction**

All individuals are children of God, created equally in God's image to share an eternal future. We the staff at St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College promise to play our full part in the education and formation of the whole school community.

#### **School Mission Statement**

We strive to meet the academic, moral, physical, social and spiritual needs of all pupils so that they may take their place as caring, committed, self-aware and self-confident adult members of society.

#### **Aims of School**

1. To offer to all students a broad, balanced appropriate relevant and flexible curriculum
2. To develop as an integral part of the local community and in particular the local Catholic community
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4. To develop as a worshipping community, in which prayer and liturgy are encouraged as part of faith development
5. To encourage all members of our school community, students, parents, staff and governors to follow the example of Jesus Christ in their daily work and relationships; to treat one another with justice, dignity tolerance and respect and to be aware of and respond to each others needs, hopes and aspirations
6. To provide and maintain an attractive, happy, secure, safe and healthy school environment

#### **Definition of Collective Worship**

'Collective worship is an activity, which reflects something special or separate from ordinary school activities. It is concerned with reverence or veneration paid to a divine being or power. Collective worship is distinct from assemblies and even if they take place in the same gathering the difference should be made clear. Collective worship can be related to the day-to-day life, aspirations and concerns of the school.

Collective worship involves an active response from pupils even if they do not feel able to identify with the act of worship.'

Religious Education and Collective Worship DFE 1/94 p. 21

## **Aim and Rationale**

‘According to the *School Inspection Act 1996*, inspection of Collective Worship is a statutory requirement. Collective Worship in a Catholic School, while respecting diversity of belief and commitment, will be Catholic in character, will reflect the tradition of the Church and will have Christ at its heart.’

Framework for Inspection of Religious Education in Secondary and Middle Schools, Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle 1997 p.6

‘Collective Worship in schools should aim to provide opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values and reinforce positive attitudes.

All registered pupils attending a maintained school should take part in Collective Worship’

Religious Education and Collective Worship, DFE, 1/94 p.20.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of Collective Worship will be to provide opportunities in the following:

- ◆ Collective Worship will be appropriate for and include all pupils who attend the school
- ◆ Collective Worship is to be based on the Catholic faith using prayer, song, dance and appropriate readings and periods of reflection
- ◆ Acts of Worship will take place in groups usually according to age
- ◆ Acts of Worship will take place on school premises and in the community
- ◆ An appropriate environment for Worship will be provided
- ◆ The School community will be involved in and participate in the Acts of Worship
- ◆ Acts of Worship will be varied and of good quality with a broad and balanced content
- ◆ Acts of worship will be enhanced using ICT
- ◆ The school community will be offered opportunities to develop skills of reflection and prayer
- ◆ The school community will be able to share the religious experiences and faith of a variety of individuals

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- **Governors**

The responsibility for arranging collective worship rests with the governing body after consultation with the Headteacher.

- **Teacher**

The Headteacher has a duty to ensure that all pupils take part in Collective Worship. In a Voluntary maintained school all teachers have a responsibility of care. As well as fostering academic progress they should actively contribute to the guardianship and guidance of the physical, moral and spiritual well being of their pupils. Appropriate training will be made available for staff.

- **Pupils**

Pupils will be expected to have concern for and accept responsibility for his/her knowledge and understanding of his/her spiritual and moral development. They should respect the Catholic nature of the Collective Worship and be willing to participate in it.

- **Parents**

Recognising that parents are the primary educators of their children the school will seek to support them in this task of praying with their children. Parents will be expected to support and not undermine the Catholic nature of Collective Worship provided by the school

- **The Wider Community**

The school will make appropriate use of external agencies and their personnel. All staff from external agencies will be asked to adhere to the Catholic ethos of the school.

## **Programme**

- ◆ The overall responsibility for worship lies with the Headteacher and governors who have approved the following structure for organising Worship

- ◆ Each Day

Every tutor assembles his/her pastoral group for Morning Prayer.

Two mornings a week the Head of Year or LPT leads this in a whole year assembly in years 7-11. One morning a week the Head of Year leads this in years 12 and 13. Opportunity is given to each tutor group to present an Act of Collective Worship throughout the year.

On the other mornings, worship takes place in the tutor group classroom organised by the tutor or members of the group.

Class teachers assemble their teaching groups for prayers before lunch and prayers at the end of the school day.

### Each Week

Every pupil has the opportunity to attend voluntary Mass held in the school Chapel every Thursday at 12.25 p.m. Every tutor group has responsibility for preparing the voluntary Mass at least once a year in years 7-11. There will also be opportunities for students in Years 12 and 13 to assist with Mass preparation. The School Chaplain will provide support for this.

### Annually

1. Each year group has the opportunity to celebrate a liturgy together. The Head of Year along with their team of staff and pupils prepare this.
  2. The whole school or separate year groups meet together for important events such as the Whole School, Mass, Carol Service and the School Mission. These events are organised by the Chaplain. Support will be given from the pastoral staff.
  3. Each year group is given the opportunity of an outside religious experience such as a day of recollection in years 8 & 9 and a residential retreat in years 7, 10, 11 & Sixth Form organised by the Chaplain and supported by the Pastoral staff.
- ◆ The Chaplain will draw up a programme, which reflects the liturgical year along with the needs and events of our world, of home, school and society.
  - ◆ The Chaplain will ensure that a wide variety of resources are made available to staff to enable them to offer appropriate Collective Worship.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Regarding the monitoring of collective worship it is recognised that all pupils are entitled to have experiences of collective worship in line with the school policy. Procedures have been set up in school to ensure that all pupils receive their entitlement. All teachers have a responsibility to ensure that pupils receive their entitlement. This will be supported by the Section 48 Co-ordinator, the School Chaplain, the member of the leadership team responsible for the Pastoral Life of the school [ECM], the member of the leadership team responsible for Section 48 along with the Heads of Year and Heads of Sixth Form.

- All staff should be aware of the Collective Worship policy and its implications for their own areas of work.
- There should be evidence of the provision of a variety of experiences during Collective Worship. These should be appropriate to the age aptitude and family backgrounds of the pupils.
- It is assumed that all teachers will provide an atmosphere which is conducive to worship.

- All staff have a responsibility to provide quality prayer experiences for the pupils in their care.
  - All staff should be aware of whole school monitoring procedures.
- Review of the provision for collective worship is ongoing with the Section 48 Co-ordinator providing reports for the Head Teacher & SLT.

### **Guidelines**

The school should consult the following documents for guidance;

Religious Education and Collective Worship DFES Collective Worship Pages 20 –21 paragraphs 50-59;

Character of Collective Worship, page 24 paragraphs 82;

Inspection of Denominational R.E. and Collective Worship, page 34 paragraphs 129-133

Framework for the Inspection of Religious Education in Secondary and Middle schools, Section 23 Inspections, Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Section 3 page 7.

### **Policy Approval**

Chair of Governors \_\_\_\_\_ Mr J Waugh 29 November 2010.

Head Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Mr S. G. White 29 November 2010