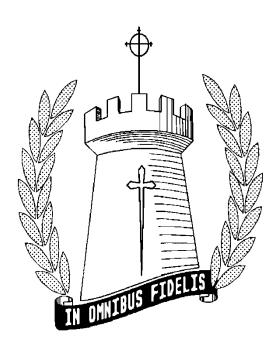
# ST. DAMIAN'S RC SCIENCE COLLEGE



# Spíritual, Moral, Social, Cultural Policy

Approved by Governors:	
Date to be reviewed:	Annually

# St Damian's RC Science College Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural Policy

'In Omnibus Fidelis' - 'In All Things Faithful'

#### Rationale

The Mission Statement of St Damian's RC Science College expresses our intention to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their academic ability, age, gender, race, religion or disability are given the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

At St. Damian's we aim to deliver spiritual, moral, social and cultural education through all aspects of school life; the whole curriculum, extra-curricular activities, the pastoral system, assemblies as well as themed events. We also offer opportunities for 'pupil voice' through the Pupil Learning Forum as well as Student Leadership through the prefects system. We work in partnership with parents and the wider community and do our best to engage them with opportunities which further develop SMSC. In essence the curriculum offers a strong, broad and challenging educational experience in terms of skills, knowledge, understanding, the development of values and the ability to be a lifelong learner. The curriculum is used to challenge pupils' views and to help them to think more deeply.

## **Principles and Values**

St Damian's is an innovative, vibrant and exciting learning community where pupils not only achieve academically but also develop as well-rounded young people who live by the Gospel values. Pupils are at the heart of all that we do. The core purpose of our College is to ensure that every child develops their individual and unique talents, unlocking their true potential.

We believe that our core Christian values enable pupils to experience the Gospel values as a toolkit for living a happy and fulfilled life. St Damian's is distinctive in nature because its ethos draws on the rich and varied spirituality of the Catholic Church. Students and staff are given the opportunity to reflect and develop their spirituality in the regular celebration of the liturgical life of the Church, through the sacraments, through collective worship, in Religious Education, in Citizenship, in PSHE and also through opportunities within the wider curriculum and life of the school.

Conscious of the backgrounds of some members of the school community, it is recognised that though spirituality is closely linked to and is a key element of Christianity, it is not exclusively a religious term. For some their spiritual development will not be explicitly religious, but will be a natural human response to God, to themselves, to the world and to the society around them. For those people of faith, spirituality is a fundamental aspect of their lives and helps to deepen the personal response to God of every individual. Every legitimate activity from this perspective has a spiritual dimension.

The School Chaplain is an active presence around the College, available to students, staff, families and governors for advice, guidance and support. The School Chaplain leads the liturgical celebrations of the Church, promotes the College within our feeder parishes and plays a lead role in developing our College ethos.

#### Aims of our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

#### **Spiritual Development**

As a fiercely proud Catholic School, we live and celebrate our Faith. Our College aims are to encourage pupils:

- To develop values such as courage, hope and love, so that they can better face the challenges and opportunities of life
- to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life
- to show respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- to have sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- to use imagination and creativity in their learning
- to show willingness to reflect on their experiences

#### **Moral Development**

We instil the value of respect. The College aims for pupils to have the ability:

- to recognise the difference between right and wrong and readily apply this understanding in their own lives
- to develop values such as kindness and truthfulness as well as a commitment to justice and integrity
- to respect the civil and criminal law of the country
- to understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- to investigate and offer reasoned views about moral and ethical issues
- to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on moral and ethical issues
- to make choices, decisions and judgements based on an informed conscience.

#### **Social Development**

We believe pupils build their confidence through working and socialising with others. Our College aims are for pupils:

- to develop social skills and Gospel values such as tolerance, respect, forgiveness, justice, compassion, and a willingness to play a full and fulfilling part in the community
- to use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- to show a willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings,
- to be able to resolve conflicts effectively
- to engage with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- to demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow pupils to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

#### **Cultural Development**

We develop the value of tolerance. Our College aims are for pupils:

- to understand and appreciate the cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- to appreciate the different cultures within school and further afield as preparation for life in modern Britain
- to have knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- to show a willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- to accept, respect and celebrate cultural diversity
- to show tolerance and positive attitudes towards different religious faiths, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

## Links with other policies

This SMSC policy is overarching and links to the following documents:

- College Mission Statement
- Curriculum Policy
- Learning & Teaching Policy
- Pupil Premium Policy
- PSHE Policy
- SRE Policy
- SEN Policy
- ICT Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Equality Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Looked After Children Policy
- Medical Needs Policy
- Mental Health Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Staff handbook & College Protocols
- Worship Policy

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- The effectiveness of the SMSC Policy and its implementation is regularly under review and is assessed qualitatively.
- Pupil and staff feedback is used to make any changes or revise any aspects of the College SMSC Policy.
- The SMSC Policy is reviewed annually.
- The SMSC Policy is updated in accordance with any statutory guidance and with reference to any nonstatutory recommendations having full regard for the vision and ethos of the College