



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy (SMSC)

Our policies reflect our Christian ethos and are in accordance with all statutory safeguarding requirements.

February 2021

Review Date: February 2024

Aims

To provide an environment that is founded on Christian beliefs and values which will enable children to become aware of, and reflect upon, their own and others' spiritual, moral, social and cultural experiences and to promote development of these in all aspects of school life (taking into account the school's trust deed).

We aim to strike a balance between high expectations, nurturing excellence and individual need. In this way children will recognise their own worth and that of others. The School's values underpin the Christian belief that we are all God's people and that we all matter.

Rationale

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child is recognised as being of fundamental importance for the education of all children by governors, staff and parents of our school. It is taught through all subjects of the curriculum. As a Church School, we provide children with thoughtful and wide ranging opportunities to explore and promote children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our Christian values of Love, Hope and Justice are explored through virtues and character is developed.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of governors

- To oversee the ethos and curriculum of the school to ensure that it promotes the above aims

The role of the Headteacher

- To implement the School's Policy for SMSC and she is supported by the governing body in doing so
- To promote opportunities for SMSC when developing the curriculum and in all aspects of school life

The role of all staff: teaching and non-teaching

- To ensure that they provide opportunities within the planned and wider curriculum for pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally
- Subject leaders and class teachers will have due regard to the guideline document "Promoting SMSC in our Curriculum" when planning work and experiences for the children

Definitions

Spiritual Development relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It has much to do with feelings and emotions, attitudes and beliefs.

Moral Development is concerned with the ability to make judgements about how we should behave and act and the reasons for such behaviour. It refers to the knowledge, understanding, values and attitudes in relation to what is right or wrong.

Social Development refers to the development of abilities and qualities that children need to acquire if they are to play a full and active part in society.

Cultural Development is concerned with the development of knowledge and understanding of differing cultural beliefs, customs and traditions.

Specific Aims

Spiritual Development

In developing the spirituality of children, we help them to become aware of:

- The human search for meaning and purpose of life which may lead to an understanding and belief of God
- The joy of being alive
- The beauty of the natural world
- The mystery and wonder of existence
- The world of imagination and creativity
- The value of the non-material dimension of life
- The need to understand oneself and one's feelings
- The need to value oneself and one's feelings
- The need to recognise the feelings and achievements of others
- The importance of relationships in our lives – with self and others as well as the world around us and possibly our relationship with God – things that transcend the world around us and are intangible

In this way, spiritual development encourages

- Self-awareness
- Reflection, prayer/meditation
- Reasoning
- A sense of enduring identity
- Good relationships
- Co-operation and empathy
- The formation of long term ideals
- Questioning, valuing, envisioning, imagining

The school will promote spiritual development through:

- Providing moments of reflection based on 4 spiritual concepts; **self, others, beauty and beyond**
- Fostering high self-esteem by encouraging children to take risks or face challenges in their learning within a secure and positive environment
- Demonstrating appreciation for imaginative work and provide opportunities for children to use their creativity and imagination
- Offering opportunities for aesthetic experience in art, music, dance, and literature
- Making time for stillness and reflection
- Posing questions that encourage children to consider issues of meaning and purpose
- Developing good listening skills in the children; the School will show that it is listening to the children through its response to issues raised, by them, via the School Council and teacher/pupil interviews
- Showing that it is not always possible to provide an absolute answer and at such times it is a positive experience to value a variety of interpretations and responses
- Improving co-operation and understanding in relationships
- Providing opportunities such as group activities where children have constructive and enjoyable interaction with others; it is important that they sometimes work with those children who they would not normally choose as partners and this teaches children skills of co-operation and collaboration
- Fostering emotional well-being by encouraging children to express their feelings and to have the ability to control their emotional behaviour
- Developing the capacity for evaluative reasoning and critical thought by encouraging children to look beyond the surface
- Supporting children in their own spiritual journey through opportunities such as use of reflection and prayer spaces

Moral Development: moving gradually from 'taught' morality to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions, children will be encouraged to:

- Understand the experience the moral dimension of the Christian faith
- Distinguish between right and wrong
- Respect the right and property of others
- Help those less fortunate than themselves
- Act with consideration towards others
- Reflect on moral principles
- Take responsibility for their actions
- Have high expectations
- Conform to rules and understand consequences
- Understand that the behaviour will be judged but the child will always be accepted
- Understand the need to forgive and be forgiven

The School will promote the moral development of the child by;

- Showing respect and awareness of the rights of others e.g. UNCRC Rights of the Child and RRE
- Having a consensus of values and virtues that are stated clearly and owned by everyone e.g. in Class Charter
- Building the self- esteem of the child
- Encouraging everyone within the school to behave in a caring way towards one another

Social Development: alongside the quality of the relationship between teachers, pupils, support staff, parents and governors, children will be encouraged to:

- Develop skills such as co-operation, collaboration, responsibility, teamwork and initiative
- Relate positively to others
- Participate fully and take on responsibilities
- Behave appropriately
- Engage in successful partnerships
- Show care and consideration eg. Through sharing and taking turns
- Experience being part of a caring community
- Listen and respect the viewpoints and ideas of others
- Become responsible citizens
- To promote a curiosity in contrasting places and countries
- To begin to understand the imperative of social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged
- Resolve conflict

The School will promote social development through:

- Providing robust programmes of support for children with additional needs to allow them to participate fully in school life
- Emotional Literacy support to help individual pupils as well as developing social skills for groups of children
- Participation in a range of sporting activities throughout the year
- Engagement with local events
- Leadership roles and pupil voice

Cultural Development:

The children need to appreciate the distinctive features of their own culture and those of others. This will help children to answer the questions "Who am I?" and "Where do I fit in?" We need to remember that cultures are dynamic and are constantly being re-shaped.

Opportunities will be provided for children to:

- Develop a sense of belonging to a culture and being proud of their cultural background
- Respond to cultural events
- Share different cultural traditions and beliefs
- Appreciate the values, customs, beliefs and diversity of other faiths, ethnic and social economic groups in the local, national and global communities
- Discuss and explore differences and similarities between different cultures and faiths
- Critically evaluate current cultural enthusiasms, icons, music and media with confidence and respect

The School will promote cultural development through:

- Exposing children to a wealth of stimuli from their own culture and those of others
- Encouraging participation in and appreciation of the Arts activities through the year
- Encouraging tolerance and appreciation of the beliefs, value and customs of different cultures
- A celebration and sharing of children's and families cultural heritage

See Collective Worship Policy and RE Policy