



## Policy: Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Education Policy

### **Introduction**

At St John's Meads Church of England Primary School the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is considered to be 'a whole school issue'. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values. This policy supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

### **Ethos**

At St John's Meads Church of England School we aim to provide a happy, stimulating and secure environment, reflecting the school's Christian ethos where each pupil is given the challenge and opportunity to develop his/her full potential while enjoying learning and life.

We endeavour to provide an environment and ethos in which children and adults can grow and develop in spirituality and where positive attitudes and consistency provide children with good role models, and similarly, older children are expected to demonstrate good behaviour and support to younger children. All children are valued equally whatever their stage of development, and are entitled to maximum success. The ethos encourages safe, sensible behaviour incorporating good manners, consideration, courtesy and respect for others whilst encouraging imagination, inspiration and reflection.

### **Mission Statement**

At St John's Meads Church of England Primary School we believe that Christian values and understanding are an important part of creating an environment in which each child feels a sense of belonging and security.

We want our school to be a place where every child and colleague feels valued and respected. Where high quality teaching, learning and achievement are in evidence and celebrated.

Our school seeks to maintain and develop links with the wider community to which it belongs, to the benefit of the pupils and the community.

We believe that our aims are best achieved through a sense of common purpose among children, parents, teachers, governors and friends of the school.

The school is a community of people working together day by day. Each child is an important member of that community in which he/she will live for up to seven of the formative years of his/her life. During this time the school environment can have a powerful and influential role as young lives take shape. The school aims to ensure that all children are well-prepared for their future education and eventually their place in society.

In our school each person is a valued and respected member of the organisation whatever their role. The nurturing of Christian values, courtesy and good manners take a high priority. We aim



## Policy: Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Education Policy

to work together to create an environment that allows each person to develop and flourish both as an individual and as a member of the school team.

### **Aims and Values**

We aim:

- To give each child equal access to the whole curriculum and take an active part in his/her own learning;
- To equip each child with the concepts, skills and attitudes that will enable him/her to achieve their own full potential;
- To help each child acquire the essential skills of literacy and numeracy;
- To make our school an inclusive school.

We believe:

- In furthering each child's knowledge and understanding of the world around them;
- In developing each child's physical and creative capabilities;
- In enhancing each child's communication and social skills;
- In fostering each child's self-confidence;
- In developing each child's spiritual awareness and morality;
- In giving due importance to the place of Christianity in our school and the Christian Values of Courage/ Creativity/ Friendship/ Peace/ Truthfulness/ Trust/ Humility/ Forgiveness/ Compassion/ Justice/ Hope and Thankfulness;
- In nurturing in each child those values and attitudes that lead to respect for others through the British Values of Democracy/ The Rule of Law/ Individual Liberty/ Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs.

### **General Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988; St John's Meads Church of England Primary School aims towards ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society;
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
- To promote respect and consideration for differences in gender, race, religion;
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum;
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development;
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills;
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society;
- To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum;
- To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life;
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live;



## Policy: Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Education Policy

- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self-respect and self-confidence;
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities.

### **Spiritual Development**

We strive to support the children in the development of their spiritual life so that through reflection, they will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. Children's spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material well-being.

We believe that this begins with a personal, experience of the core Christian values rooted in the Bible and we teach these through:

- Personal and community prayer;
- A sense of God's presence permeating the life of the school;
- Hearing His word spoken in scripture;
- A curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder;
- The ability to listen and be still with quiet times of reflection.

### **Objectives for Spiritual Development:**

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert;
- To develop the skill of being mentally still, concentrating on the present moment;
- To develop the ability to use all senses;
- To promote an awareness of and enjoyment in using imaginative potential and to develop curiosity and a questioning approach - discussing issues and themes;
- To encourage quiet reflection during a lesson or assembly, reflecting on good things and what can be improved;
- To reflect on own behaviour and situations which are disturbing them;
- To consider the mystery of God and the wonder of His world;
- To promote self-image and develop positive self-esteem, respect for themselves and find an inner confidence and peace;
- To have the opportunity to develop personal beliefs;
- To explore the opportunity to pray;
- To know own strengths and acknowledge that can't do everything but will be better at something;
- To promote the ability to keep trying and seeking success.



## Policy: Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Education Policy

### **Moral Development**

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At St John's Meads Church of England Primary School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour.

At the heart of the Church's and the school's moral teaching lies the understanding that we love because we are first loved by God. We are called to reflect God's love for us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have been given the freedom to respond to His love or reflect Him. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development.

### **Aims for Moral Development**

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions;
- To understand that love is at the heart of the Christian understanding of morality;
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong;
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions;
- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions.

### **Objectives for Moral Development**

- To tell the truth;
- To respect the rights and property of others;
- To help others less fortunate;
- To be considerate;
- To take responsibility;
- To keep promises;
- To develop high expectations and a positive attitude;
- To conform to rules and regulations to promote order for the good of all and to understand that there are consequences to our actions;
- To treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves.

### **Social Development**

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local and wider community. Within this there should be a balance of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group or society along with the demands, obligations and cooperation such membership requires.

God did not create mankind for life in isolation, but for the formation of social unity. Therefore it is part of the school's responsibility to support pupils and their families in the formation of good social attitudes.



## Policy: Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Education Policy

### **Aims for Social Development:**

- To relate positively to others and learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with membership of a group or community;
- To become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others;
- To participate fully and take responsibility in the classroom and in the school;
- To use appropriate behaviour, according to situations;
- To participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co-operative skills that will help all to live with each other;
- To learn what it means to be a responsible citizen.

### **Objectives for Social Development**

- To share emotions such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear and reverence;
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others;
- To work as part of a group;
- To interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, visits, church services, music festivals etc.;
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a part of a caring community
- To show care and consideration for others e.g. sharing and turn taking;
- To realise that every individual can do something well and have something to offer;
- To understand that saying sorry also needs to be accompanied by a change in behaviour.

### **Cultural Development**

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

### **Aims for Cultural Development**

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background;
- To respond to cultural events;
- To share different cultural experiences;
- To respect different cultural traditions;
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition;
- To develop a balanced approach to retaining the traditions of our Christian society, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present;
- To be introduced to the values and customs held within our Anglican, Christian tradition.



## Policy: Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Education Policy

### **Objectives for Cultural Development**

- To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts, *i.e. Music, Art, Drama, Literature etc.*;
- To develop a love for learning;
- To develop an understanding of different cultures and beliefs, including Christianity;
- To appreciate the values and customs of other ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British society, and the world beyond;
- To develop the ability to value these independently.

### **Implementation:**

The promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of each child is seen as the responsibility of all members of staff. Much of this development should be assimilated through the ethos of the school. However, there are many opportunities within cross-curricular work to focus on the aims and objectives outlined. All children regardless of gender, ability or social background will receive the same teaching with each of their views being taken into account.

### **Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:**

- listen and talk to each other;
- learn an awareness of treating all as equals, accepting people who are different because of physical and learning difficulties;
- agree and disagree;
- experience good role models;
- take turns and share equipment;
- work co-operatively and collaboratively.

### **Practical activities to develop SMSC will include:**

- working together in different groupings and situations;
- encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times;
- taking responsibility *e.g. playground buddies*;
- encouraging teamwork in PE and games;
- appreciation of and respect for the work and performance of other children.

### **Recording and Collecting Evidence**

The following methods are used:

- Workbooks record children's self-assessment against SMSC criteria, as appropriate;
- Teacher Assessment folders and records, assess children against SMSC criteria and record child's comments and photographs (*e.g. of dramatic roles, participation in music etc.*);
- Celebration of Achievement certificates which track a child's achievements linked to our school's values and vision, progress and development. These achievements are celebrated regularly through Celebration Assemblies on Fridays. Reported by our school Newsteam and shared on the School Facebook and through weekly newsletters.
- Yearly Progress Reports contain comments with regards to SMSC development.



Policy: Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Education Policy

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

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

- Evaluating SMSC, in lesson observations, following Ofsted guidelines;
- Pupil Voice consultation;
- Learning walks;
- Following our monitoring cycle.

**Links with Other Policies and School Documents**

The school has adopted policies for many other areas of school life of which the following may be helpful in relation to this policy:

- The School Prospectus
- The Staff Handbook
- The Home-School Agreement
- The Teaching and Learning policy
- Planning, Recording, Assessment and Reporting policy
- The Behaviour policy
- Equality Scheme
- The RE and Collective Worship policies