

St Nicholas School

Policy on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural
Aspects of a Child's Education

INTRODUCTION

At St Nicholas School we recognise that the personal development of children spiritually, morally, socially and culturally (SMSC) plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides children with opportunities to explore and develop

- Their own values and beliefs
- Their own spiritual awareness
- Their own standards of personal behaviour
- A positive, caring attitude towards other people
- An appreciation of the diversity and richness of their cultures.

All national Curriculum subjects provide opportunities to promote pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Explicit opportunities to promote pupils development in these areas are provided in Religious Education and through school assemblies; our framework for PSHE and citizenship. Within all curricular activities, children will be encouraged to reflect on the significance of what they are learning, to recognise any challenges to their own attitudes and lifestyle and to recognise a spiritual dimension to their lives.

On a day to day basis pupils are encouraged to follow the school rules which are displayed around the school and represent the core values of our community.

Use indoor voice

Listen to others

Be kind

Follow instructions

Try hard

The Rules reflect the need to value ourselves, our families and other relationships, the wider groups to which we belong, the diversity of our society and the environment in which we live.

AIMS OF SMSC

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- To ensure that a child's education is set within the context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that children know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each child a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feeling and response to personal experiences.
- To enable children to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable children to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society and school.
- To give each child the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Assemblies will:

- Develop a community spirit
- Be broadly Christian in nature
- Promote the schools culture, values and expectations
- Explore important moral and social themes
- Promote care for the planet
- Provide important notices and information
- Celebrate children's successes and achievements both in and out of the school (Star of the Week and House Points)
- Share and celebrate world cultures, religions and festivals (Class assemblies and year group assemblies)
- Promote racial harmony and respect for all.

Through classroom discussions we will give the children opportunities to:

- talk about personal experiences and feelings
- express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- speak about difficult events, eg bullying, death etc
- share thoughts and feelings with other people
- explore relationships with friends/family/others
- consider the needs and behaviour of others
- show empathy
- develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- develop a sense of belonging
- develop the skills and attitudes that enable children to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally eg empathy, respect, open-mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness etc.

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.
- agree and disagree
- experience good role models
- take turns and share equipment
- work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Practical activities to develop SMSC will include:

- encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times
- taking responsibility eg class monitors, school council, playground buddies and helping with the younger children.
- encouraging teamwork in PE and games
- appreciation of and respect for the work and performance of other children regardless of ability
- hearing music from different composers, cultures and genres
- meeting people from different cultures and countries
- participating in a variety of different educational visits
- participation in live performances
- use of assembly themes to explore important aspects of our heritage and other cultures, eg festival days, the patron saints and national celebrations
- opportunities for the children to hear and see live performances by professional actors, dancers and musicians
- opportunities to make and evaluate food from other countries
- opportunities in music to learn songs from different cultures and play a range of instruments including steel pans and Indian drums.
- studying the contributions to society that certain famous people have made.

LINKS WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

- Visitors are welcomed into our school.
- Links with the local churches are fostered.
- Visits to places of worship of other faiths will be arranged to support the understanding of different cultures.
- The school supports the work of a variety of charities (Red Nose Day and Children In Need)
- The development of a strong home-school agreement is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the children.
- Children will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment.
- Liaison with local secondary schools to support the primary curriculum and effective transition, takes place.

APPENDIX

DEFINITIONS

Spiritual development

Understanding of self and others is at the heart of spiritual development and is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith. Spiritual development is, therefore, accessible to everyone. All areas of the curriculum should contribute to children's spiritual development.

Spiritual Development – as a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable children to:

- sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- develop their capacity for independent thought and where appropriate critical thought.
- foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- experience moments of stillness and reflection
- explore their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships

Moral development

Is concerned with children's ability to make judgements about how they should behave and act and the reasons for such behaviour. It refers to their knowledge, understanding, values and attitudes in relation to what is right or wrong. Moral development, based on Christian principles, should enable children to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour.

Moral Development – as a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable children to:

- recognise the unique value of each individual
- listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
- gain the confidence to cope to learn from mistakes
- take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
- distinguish between right and wrong
- show respect for the environment
- make informed and independent judgements.

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. It also relates to the growth of knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects. Children learn to lead, use their own initiative and to use individual skills and strengths when working together towards a common goal. The ability to be led, to support others and to recognise the different skills of other group members can be developed when children work cooperatively.

Social Development – as a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable children to:

- develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- learn about service in the school and wider community

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 of others.

Cultural Development – as a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable children to:

- recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain
- recognise Christianity as a world wide faith
- develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.