



Creating a chance to SHINE every day

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

This policy was ratified: May 2023

And will be reviewed: May 2025

Signed by Headteacher: Samantha Welsby

Vision

Through a caring Christian ethos, both children and adults are supported and encouraged to flourish through their own exploration of religions, beliefs, cultures and morals. With our distinctive vision of 'Creating a chance to SHINE every day', inspired by the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:16), we enable those within our school community to develop holistically as a whole person. This is the development of own views and beliefs in relation to religious and moral beliefs. This is enhanced by the Curriculum and teaching of Religious Education, Collective Worship, and learning about a wide range of religions and belief systems. By exploring with pupils a range of religious and non-religious views, they are able to form their own opinions and beliefs.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to set out expectations of the curriculum, opportunities and the environment to support children's SMSC development, and how to provide opportunities for both children and staff to be able to develop individually. This is to support SMSC within school alongside our Christian values. We aim to develop each pupil as a whole child in all aspects of learning and development.

We aim to impact our students':

- **Spiritual development** so that they are creative in the way they approach challenges and are critical and reflective of their outcomes; are inquisitive and enjoy their learning and are accepting of others and embrace the wide range of cultures within the local, national and global communities.
- **Moral development** so that they can recognise the difference between right and wrong; are respectful of each other; are willing to debate and are able to discuss moral and ethical issues openly.
- **Social development** so that they can develop highly effective social skills including collaboration and resilience; are happy to work and socialise with students from different religious, ethnic, and socio-economic background, and take an active part in running the school. Student voice is central to the process of self-evaluation and school improvement.
- **Cultural development** so they are excited to investigate their own and others' heritage; participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities and understand, accept and respect diversity.

Approaches

Inclusion

All pupils and staff are included in the growth of their SMSC development. To develop holistically, the whole person and their individual needs are taken into account. All opportunities are available to all pupils and where necessary, strategies and support may need to be put in place to support this inclusion. In Collective Worship, we aim to provide invitational, inclusive, and inspiring Worship through Bible stories, drama, discussions, hymns and reflection of our Christian School Values each half term.

Opportunities and curriculum

Our curriculum is planned to ensure all religions, cultures and beliefs are represented alongside British values and our Christian values. We continue to have positive relationships with the church and wider community. Children's SMSC development is promoted through:

- Wild learning outdoor sessions (based on the principles of Forest School)
- Collective worship which links to our school values
- 'Open the Book Storytellers' - Bible stories are acted out with the children's involvement
- RE lessons, which look at theology, culture and non religious beliefs and groups.
- Whole-school visits to local places of worship
- Weekly Clergy visits to lead Collective Worship, and input into RE lessons to share their expertise
- Connections with local, national, and global organisations such as Royal British Legion, RSPB, Fire Service, Coventry Cathedral International Cross of Nails, Dogs Trust, and more.

Monitoring and evaluating

Monitoring and evaluating of the effectiveness of SMSC development within school is implemented through:

- Auditing of policies
- Discussion at staff and governor meetings.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice in collective worship
- Evidence from pupils' work and progression
- Circle times to discuss issues
- Reflection areas in all classrooms
- Worry boxes
- School council and class reps that discuss issues at meetings, raising money for charities and school events
- School trips, visits and visitors to school
- Parents evenings to discuss progress and next steps
- Half termly Pupil Progress meetings
- Regular Collective worship and RE evaluations by pupils
- Collective Worship Crew - help set up, deliver and plan Collective Worship