



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Introduction:

At St John's Meads Church of England Primary School, children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education (SMSC) is considered to be the responsibility of the whole school community.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is interwoven in all we do - through our curriculum, policies, daily collective worship, pastoral care and our approach to pastoral support.

Our Vision Statement:

Loving learning and loving one-another, as God loves us.

Celebrating success in its many forms, and overcoming challenges.

Praying for, and caring for, our whole community.

Learning to live in the light of Christ, and as a light to others.

Spiritual development is concerned with developing the non-material aspects of life, focusing on personal insight, values, meaning and purpose.

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 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 feelings;
- To consider the mystery of God and the wonder of His world;
- To promote positive self-image, inner confidence and peace;
- To have the opportunity to develop personal beliefs;
- To explore the opportunity to pray;
- To know own strengths and talents;
- To promote perseverance;



- To promote the fundamental British Value of exploring and respecting the values and beliefs of others.

Moral development is largely about choices, behaviour and how you live your life. It's also about personal and societal values, understanding the reasons for them and airing and understanding disagreements.

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. However, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have been given a choice in how to respond; how we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development.

At St John's Meads, our aim is for children to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. We work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong, and move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for personal 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;
- To understand that there are consequences for our actions;
- To treat others as we would wish to be treated ourselves.

Social development is about working together effectively, and participating in the local community. It also includes the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

At St John's Meads, our aim is to support children to develop the cooperative skills and social awareness to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, and 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 compromises such membership may require. This supports children 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 learn how to compromise;
- 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 is about understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and experiencing a range of cultural activities and traditions (for example art, theatre, travel, concerts, dress and food). Children develop the fundamental British Value of exploring, understanding and respecting the diversity of cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity. Our aim is for all children to have the opportunity to share and be proud of their own cultural background and experiences, and in doing so enable others to develop curiosity, awareness and respect for the differences within our school, and the wider world.

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 understand and value diversity in the world

Links with other policies:

Equalities policy

Behaviour Policy

RSHE Policy

Collective Worship Policy

Curriculum Implementation documents