

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

At Cringleford CE VA Primary School we recognise that the personal development of pupils (spiritually, morally, socially and culturally) plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve.

As a church school, SMSC development is essential to maintaining the school's ethos, values and culture. The Christian perspective we bring to all we do in our school lies at the heart of our effectiveness.

We aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of different cultures.

We aim to ensure that our pupils become valuable and fully rounded members of society who treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of background and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.

Guidelines

All curriculum areas, including RE and collective worship, have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum.

Curriculum mapping for each term shows how opportunities for SMSC are provided each term for every year group. SMSC is threaded through the whole school community and curriculum.

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families.

The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school.

Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.

Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in teachers' planning and purchasing decisions.

General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our Christian 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 pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society
- To enable pupils to understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain
- To equip pupils to be thoughtful, caring and active citizens in school and wider society
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility
- To actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Spiritual Development

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life
- Derive inspiration, spiritual growth and affirmation from collective worship

Moral Development

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Establish their own moral code based on Christian values (forgiveness, wisdom, thankfulness, compassion, endurance etc.)
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and 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

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity

- Learn about service in the school and wider community
- Allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain
- Participate in team activities, residential experiences and visits
- Celebrate individual, team and group success in a wide range of activities
- Accept and engage with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Cultural Development

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these have influenced individuals and society
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions
- Explore the diversity of the Christian tradition within Britain and across the world
- Gain knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system
- Develop their unique gifts and talents
- Take part in and respond to a range of sporting and cultural activities

Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas. Activities will be provided that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Class discussions and activities such as Circle Time will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings and explore relationships with others
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable them to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally – e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness etc.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc.
- Reflect on Collective Worship themes
- Develop a sense of belonging and their own self-esteem

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Listen and talk to each other
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are physically or mentally different
- Agree and disagree
- Take turns and share equipment

- Work co-operatively and collaboratively
- Be taught by specialist teachers (music, science, art, PE, MFL etc.)

Links with the wider community

- The school has strong links with organisations that offer enrichment to the school curriculum: NSSP, Hethersett Cluster, Cavell Court, St. Peter's Church, UEA, twinning school in Gambia
- Visitors are welcomed into school
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility for it.

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

- Monitoring of medium term plans and children's work
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings
- Learning Walks and discussions with staff and pupils
- Sharing of classroom work and practice
- Reviews of Collective Worship policy and practice
- Collation of evidence of pupils' work in school portfolio
- Regular inclusion in SIDP.