



St Mary's Catholic Primary and Nursery School SMSC Policy

Vision: 'A Journey to Excellence'

We believe that each child is made in the image and likeness of God therefore we develop the 'whole child' to reach their individual potential. We have high expectations and celebrate success both academically and socially. We aim to provide an outstanding Catholic education so that we can make a valuable contribution to the community in which live and serve.

Mission statement:

‘We are happy living and learning in God’s Friendship’

1. Aims of SMSC

- To provide a safe, caring and happy environment where each child is valued as an individual and can develop towards his/her full potential.
- To provide for each child a wide, balanced curriculum of high quality, appropriate to the interests and aspirations of the individual, encouraging the development of the whole person and fulfilling the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- To develop the potential of each child within his/her capabilities, recognising different needs and abilities and providing challenges and appropriate teaching at each stage of development.
- To set and maintain standards of discipline, courtesy and general moral values so that the school community may function effectively.
- To engender a sense of self-respect, independence and self-motivation. To increase the individual’s capacity to accept responsibility for actions taken. To encourage children to recognise their responsibility to and dependence on others to help them become active, reasoning participants in a democratic society.
- To provide a non-sexist, non-racist atmosphere that fosters respect for religious and moral values linked with tolerance of other people, races, religions and lifestyles.
- To foster links between home and school and develop a partnership with parents in the education of their children.

2. Guiding principles

2.1. Spiritual development

The spiritual development of pupils is shown by their:

- Ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life.
- Interest in, and respect for, different people’s faiths, feelings and values.

- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them.
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning.
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences.

2.2. Moral development

The moral development of pupils is shown by their:

- Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions.
- Interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

2.3. Social development

The social development of pupils is shown by their:

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Willingness to participate in a variety of community and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively.
- Ability to use modern communication technology, including mobile technology, the internet and social media, safely.
- Acceptance and engagement 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. The pupils should also develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to, life in modern Britain.

2.4. Cultural development

The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others.

- Understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within the school, and further afield, as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain.
- Knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain.
- Willingness to participate in and respond positively to: artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities.
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of, and showing respect for, different faiths and cultural diversity.
- Understanding, acceptance, respect and celebration of diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

3. Cross-curriculum teaching and learning

- 3.1. Development in SMSC will take place across all areas of the curriculum and is enhanced further during whole school themed weeks such as 'Friendship Week'.
- 3.2. SMSC has particularly strong links to Religious Education, Collective Worship, Pastoral Sessions and Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE).
- 3.3. All areas of the curriculum will draw examples from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.
- 3.4. In order to develop a strong sense of identity in our pupils, we will use classroom discussion to enable them to:
 - Talk about their experiences and feelings.
 - Express and clarify personal ideas and beliefs.
 - Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death.
 - 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 e.g. empathy, respect, open-mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness etc.

3.5. Many areas across the curriculum provide opportunities for pupils 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.

3.6. Practical activities to develop SMSC include:

- Working together in different groupings and situations.
- A strong pupil voice and pupil-led actions e.g. School Council, GIFT Team, Bully Busters, Playground Pals, Prefects, Seeds and Gardeners.
- Encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times.
- Taking responsibility e.g. class monitors, lunch monitors, register monitors, assembly monitors, cloakroom monitors, delivering messages and looking after younger children.
- A strong emphasis on pupils as 'Independent Learners' – VIP's!
- Encouraging teamwork in PE and games.
- Working together in different groupings and situations – Kagan strategies used to promote pupils as active learners
- Appreciation of and respect for the work and performance of other children, regardless of ability.
- Hearing music from different composers, cultures and genres e.g. in music for reflection time at the start of collective worship.
- Meeting people from different cultures and countries.
- Participating in a variety of different educational visits.
- Participation in class assemblies and nativities.
- Using assembly themes to explore important aspects of our heritage and other cultures e.g. festival days, the patron saints and global events.
- Studying literature and art from different cultures supported by visits from writers and artists and participating in workshops.

- 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 samba.
- Studying the contributions to society that certain famous people have made.
- Regular celebration and appreciation of other faiths festivals.

4. Promoting fundamental British values

4.1. Through the national curriculum, we will:

- Teach our pupils a broad and balanced international history.
- Represent the cultures of all of our pupils across the subject.
- Teach a wide range of English and non-English literature.
- Commemorate World War 1 and 2.
- Demonstrate the historical importance of the Commonwealth.

4.2. Through our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural programme, we will:

- Enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.
- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England.

- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of, and respect for, their own and other cultures.
- Encourage respect for other people.
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

5. Community links

5.1. St Mary's has strong links with the wider community.

5.2. In order to develop these links, we reach out to the community through the following activities:

- Weekly celebration assemblies and class assemblies
- Summer Fayre
- An active fund raising, child led programme throughout the year
- Visits within community e.g. Choir singing in Nursing Homes, local supermarkets and Church, visits to local Library and competitions, visits/visitors from local housing/environmental firms to promote community cohesion
- Welcoming visitors into our school
- A family worker
- Liaising with a range of outside agencies to support our children and families
- Opportunities of extra-curricular clubs and school trips

6. Outcomes

1.1. As a Catholic school, we are here primarily to pass on the Catholic faith to our pupils as well as providing an outstanding education in all aspects. Through our strong Catholic ethos, we teach and prepare our pupils as a 'whole child' and not just academically. Our Catholic faith teaches us that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and are all God's children and loved equally. We, therefore, celebrate this and teach everything through the examples given by Jesus. This means that as well as teaching specific aspects of

SMSC within set lessons, we naturally teach all aspects in RE teaching as well as within all areas of learning, inside the classroom and beyond.

7. Monitoring and Review

- 1.2. SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by the monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by PSHE Leader, RE Leader and SLT.
- 1.3. This policy is reviewed by the RE Leader, governing body and the Headteacher.
- 1.4. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.
- 1.5. All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with all process and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction.
- 1.6. This policy was written in April 2018 by A.Oldham. The next scheduled review date is April 2020.

Signed: A.Oldham (On behalf of the staff)

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governors)