ST. JOHN'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
WATERLOO

Respect, Courage, Compassion, Friendship, Trust, Perseverance

SMSC

POLICY

Written: May 2021
Reviewed: May 2024
Next Review Date: May 2027

Policy Statement for Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development (SMSC)

Our School Vision Statement

Our School Vision Statement

St. John's Church of England Primary School has a Christian vision for education rooted in wisdom, hope, community and dignity. It is a community where all are welcome and nurtured in a spirit of Christian love, compassion and encouragement.

It is a place which enables everyone in the school community to develop and experience life in all its fullness and realise true potential through an excellent, broad and creative education. Christian hope, aspiration and resilience for the future are central to the learning experience.

The school's vision is rooted in Christian love which is the foundation of our Christian values:

- Friendship
- Courage
- Trust
- Respect
- Compassion
- Perseverance

School aims:

- To provide a caring, safe and happy environment where the whole school community can flourish knowing that they are unique and special in the eyes of God
- To build confidence and self-esteem to enable children to develop resilience and become successful, independent life-long learners
- To enable all children to achieve their full potential
- To develop the teamwork and leadership skills and qualities in all our children so that they can be responsible citizens of the future
- To be fully committed to equality of opportunity
- To create a stimulating environment in which Christian attitudes of positive relationships, mutual respect, responsibility, forgiveness and understanding are fostered at all times
- To foster strong links between communities: home, school, church, the local community, the diocese and, internationally as *Global Neighbours.*
- To enable staff to develop their own talents and expertise so that they too can thrive
- To promote high standards and expectations of behaviour towards one another, as Jesus said, 'Love one another' (John 13:34-35).
- To be committed to providing opportunities for spiritual growth through RE and collective worship as well as a wealth of stimulating experiences and extra-curricular activities
- To promote children's cultural experiences and opportunities to help develop a positive understanding of their place in a diverse world.

OVERVIEW

At St John's CE Primary School, we believe that everyone in our school community is special in God's eyes and has a valuable contribution to make to the life of our community. Every child matters and has the right to learn in a calm, secure and caring environment. Each child will be supported to 'seek life in all its fullness' John 10: 10) to fulfil potential and have the opportunity to enjoy learning in a variety of ways.

St John's CE Primary School spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development plays an important part in all pupils' ability to learn and achieve. SMSC is especially important in a Church of England school because we believe that everyone is made in the image of God and that every individual is of utmost value. In all aspects of the School's work and teaching and learning across the curriculum, we seek opportunities to teach the four strands of the Church of England belief: educating for wisdom, knowledge, and skills; hope and inspiration; dignity and respect; community and living well together. Daily life is underpinned by the overarching Christian value of ***love*** and the School's chosen Christian values of ***respect, courage, compassion, friendship, trust***, ***and perseverance***, directly influencing SMSC.

SMSC development will be addressed across the curriculum and through the School's distinctive Christian character to give every child the opportunity to thrive and learn and play an important role in society.

We are committed to meeting the needs of each individual, including those identified in the 2010 Equality Act. All characteristics will be recognized, accepted, and embedded in all areas. These protected characteristics include age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

INTENT

1. To help all pupils increase their spiritual awareness and development by exposing them to opportunities of awe and wonder that will contribute to their spiritual growth.
2. To enable all pupils to develop good moral values and understand the importance of friendship, compassion, respect, courage, trust and perseverance, and know the difference between right and wrong.
3. To build an understanding of truthfulness, justice, and fair play through our Christian faith and curriculum.
4. To enable all pupils to get on well together as a school community and develop the personal and interpersonal social skills that facilitate harmony and empathy for others.
5. To teach pupils about the wider society in which they live as citizens and the associated rights and responsibilities.

6. To give pupils an understanding of the rich culture in which they live and to increase their knowledge and understanding of the wider cultures that make up our societies and the diverse world in which we live.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. ST. John's CE Primary School's Christian ethos and Christian vision provide an environment that motivates and encourages pupils. Pupils are taught how to work together to achieve mutual support and a sense of collective responsibility for the community. Pupils are encouraged to adopt a strong sense of caring and respect for others in the School and wider/global community.
2. We will provide opportunities for charitable events to develop the pupils' sense of global responsibility.
3. We will provide opportunities across the curriculum and through worship to seek out aspects of life, which lead to an understanding of the bigger questions:

- *Who am I?*
- *What is important to me?*
- *What is my purpose?*
- *Where do I belong?*
- *What do I believe?*

4. We support spiritual development by encouraging faith and belief in self and religious commitment.
5. Pupils will be taught to recognise right and wrong in daily life and are encouraged to seek justice and forgiveness. Our behaviour policy and school expectations contribute to the moral standards of the community. An emphasis on fairness and reconciliation supports daily life and encourages responsibility and Christian commitment.
6. Pupils will learn how to behave, the importance of friendship, respect, trust, and compassion through teaching and learning across all aspects of school life. They will learn about the importance of being kind and caring towards others and the importance of truthfulness and honesty.
7. Pupils will be taught how to develop the social skills that are integral to working harmoniously with others, how to have empathy for others and how to respect the beliefs and cultures of others.
8. Teachers will provide first-hand experience, visits, visitors, artefacts, the local and wider environment to provide good opportunities for pupils to experience awe and wonder and to deepen their cultural awareness.
9. The Religious Education (RE) curriculum is highly influential in pupils' SMSC development, making a significant contribution in preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of later life. It strengthens our understanding of Christian values, empowering pupils to make positive choices.
10. In Religious Education, through their understanding of global Christianity and different faiths and beliefs, pupils will be encouraged to develop their feelings of understanding and empathy for others and how to respect the beliefs and cultures of others.

11. High quality books in English, across the curriculum, and the school library will significantly contribute to SMSC development.
12. Through history and geography and their increasing knowledge and understanding of the world, learners will understand the British society in which they live and its cultural diversity. They will also learn about the diversity of cultures across time and the world.
13. Art, science, mathematics, design technology, music and physical education will be used to provide opportunities for spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.
14. SMSC is integral to the Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) curriculum, providing a consistent and comprehensive approach to developing pupils' understanding of their sense of belonging and their contributions as responsible citizens to their school, wider and global communities. It encourages pupils to reflect their PSHE learning in their behaviour and attitudes.

IMPACT

The development of pupils' SMSC awareness will be at the core of our School's ethos and vision. It will be established across the teaching and learning curriculum. It will have a strong visibility in the Christian ethos, life and work of the School through the pupils' behaviour, relationships and attitudes. There will be visible evidence in displays, worship, performances and work across the curriculum.

This policy statement should be read in conjunction with the School's British values statement, all school policies, and curriculum planning so that SMSC is clearly seen to be at the heart of all that the School aims to provide for its pupils.

The headteacher and Governing Body will assess the impact of the policy and monitor its operation.