

St Chad's Patchway CE VC Primary School

SMSC – Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

“Learning to love, loving to learn.”

Aim

This policy supports our vision statement of “Learning to love, loving to learn”, showing how we value all pupils equally and as individuals. All staff work together to create a happy, challenging, stimulating and caring environment in which pupils enjoy their time at school and celebrate their achievement.

A fundament of St Chad’s school is the desire to build a community that encourages all its members to develop respect for each other, to recognise gifts and worth, and to know that we all work together to create the school, community, area, and world that we inhabit. As part of this, St Chad’s CE VC Primary School provides a stimulating, enjoyable, and caring environment where there are opportunities, encouragement and stimuli to develop each student to their full potential.

This policy relates to the whole life of the school and its role in promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) by the explicit teaching, ethos of the school, by the example set by all in the school and the quality of relationships we build.

1. Spiritual Development

Aim

Spiritual development relates to exploring those dimensions of human experience which helps pupils reflect on their thoughts, feelings and relationships more deeply through which pupils acquire worthwhile insights into their own lives. In particular such reflection aims to consider those things which are of special significance, such as people, places, objects and stories. Spiritual development is to do with the search for meaning and purpose in life and for values by which to live. Spiritual development also encourages pupils to experience enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, and to reflect on their own experiences. All areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils’ spiritual development, but although education and spiritual development are not synonymous, school experiences at St Chad’s make a significant contribution to spiritual development.

Objectives

At St Chad’s CE VC Primary School pupils are provided with opportunities to develop their spiritual understanding by experiencing a curriculum which will:

- Develop self-esteem, self-knowledge and belief in themselves,
- Allow pupils to develop a range of personal values and beliefs based on a sense of curiosity and respect towards their own and other beliefs,
- Explore the spiritual values of others through stories, drama, music, art and Religious Education to name just a few,
- Allow pupils to express themselves in a variety of ways and give them time to reflect on their own experiences,
- Allow pupils to understand, express, use and control feelings and emotions as well as encouraging empathy in terms of relationships with others,
- Develop a sense of personal significance and belonging,
- Develop a sense of Awe and Wonder,
- Give thanks for all aspects of school life, the wonders of the world and life more widely.

In Practice at St Chad's CE VC Primary School, this is delivered through:

1. A Religious Education programme which develops self-esteem, knowledge and an ability to reflect on and develop individuals' own spiritual values,
2. A carefully planned and adaptive PSHE curriculum,
3. A Collective Worship programme to address, amongst others, the spiritual aspect of quiet and reflection,
4. Opportunities to discuss feelings and emotions openly,
5. Recognising and encouraging the use of personal and group gifts and talents,
6. Opportunities to develop imagination and creativity,
7. Discussing and reflecting upon key questions such as the existence of God, the origins and purpose of the universe, good and evil, life after death,
8. Discovering how the creative and expressive arts enable spiritual development,
9. Encouraging curiosity and questioning so that views and ideas can be developed within a secure environment where everyone is valued,
10. Educational enrichment trips, creative partnerships and visiting speakers provide pupils with a range of experiences, which may promote a sense of awe and wonder about the world,
11. A reflective approach to learning,
12. A rewards system developing pupils' self-esteem through certificates, awards, ICA, stamps / stickers, dojos and awards at all levels,
13. Displays of pupils' work creating a sense of pride in the work produced and encouraging pupils to express their talents,
14. The use of school council and other pupil body groups to involve pupils in the life of their school;
15. Exploring and experiencing prayer and worship from a primarily Christian tradition,
16. Nurturing interest and respect for the faiths and experiences of people within our own community and the wider community, reflecting upon our own thoughts and beliefs as well as the thoughts, beliefs and faiths of others.

Moral Development

Aim

Moral development refers to the pupils' ability to make judgements about how they should behave and act and the reasons for such behaviour. It refers to their knowledge, understanding, values and attitudes in relation to what is right or wrong. The school has a well-established Behaviour Policy and St Chad's CE VC Primary School promotes a supportive approach to the development of behaviour and attitudes that reveal moral decision making.

The system of rules and codes of behaviour within our school is an aid to understanding of fairness and to the consequences. Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for shared values and to live by them out of choice.

Our moral development based on Christian principles enables pupils to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour. School Values are shared and owned by all school members.

Moral development is also taught through RE and Collective Worship in ours, a church school.

Objectives

We aim to promote the concept of morally driven behaviour by asking and supporting pupils to:

- Be kind and considerate in actions and aims,
- Be helpful to others,
- Show commitment to school and classroom rules, and by recognising legal boundaries and respecting the law as well as understanding why there is law,
- Be committed to a healthy, safe and environmentally friendly school and to live that in our community and beyond,
- Develop a sense of right and wrong based in a Christian Foundation,
- Develop a sensitive conscience,

- Understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions,
- Recognise the importance of personal integrity,
- Develop mutual respect across all who make up our school our local and our global community,
- Recognise that rights also carry responsibilities,
- Be able to offer opinions on moral issues and respecting the opinions of others.

In practice – at St Chad’s CE VC Primary School this is delivered through:

- Clear models of moral behaviour from staff and all pupils and reinforcement of school and classroom rules and the reasons behind them,
- A supportive staff who focused on conflict resolution and moral understanding of self and others,
- Focused time and discussions exploring moral issues, this will include formally through Collective Worship, PSHE, RE, where it arises in subjects such as History and also where it happens spontaneously in lessons or in the fullness of a school day,
- Collective worship themes on Christian based moral issues, developed and reinforced throughout the week, term and time in school,
- Fund raising activities for local charities, in addition to national charity events where staff explicitly explore fairness, equality and morality as well as responsibility and respect.
- Rewarding for moral choices and demonstrations of morality, such as through ICA, class rewards etc,
- Explicit education on the meaning of values which help to shape morals,
- The use of pupil teams and pupil roles across the school such as Student Council, Assemblies Team, Eco-team, Sport Coaches, Morning Helpers, Buddies and more,
- Supervised and filtered access to the Internet together with regular teaching on how to be safe, the dangers of the internet and related issues,
- Local, national and global incidents are explored at an age appropriate level.

Social Development

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” John 13.34

Aim

Social development refers to the development of skills, abilities and personal qualities necessary for individuals to acquire if they are to play a full and active part in society. It also relates to the growth of knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects.

In St Chad’s pupils learn to lead, to use initiative and to use individual skills and strengths when working together towards a common goal. We also support the understanding of how to be led to support others and to recognise the different skills of other group members to work co-operatively.

Pupil develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain and a modern world.

Objectives

Pupils will be encouraged to:

- Develop and maintain relationships within the school working successfully with all in the school community as a model for developing and maintaining relationships in other areas of their life,
- Build relationships within the school and between the school, the parish and the local community,
- Develop a sense of empathy, compassion and concern for others, to demonstrate the ability to co-operate well with others,
- Gain an understanding of the wider society through their family and carers, the school, local and wider communities,
- Respond to the opportunities being offered, to show initiative and to take responsibility,
- Be willing to take part in activities, including volunteering, in a range of community and social settings,

- Demonstrate the ability to able to resolve conflicts effectively,
- Demonstrate an understanding of British values: including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and respect for faiths and beliefs,
- Actively participate in the school community and beyond into the wider community outside of school.

In Practice, at St Chad's CE VC Primary School we provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Interact with all member of the school community and with external communities in an appropriate and outstanding manner,
- Providing opportunities for pupils to articulate their own views on a range of current issues and to show respect for the opinions of others and a willingness to learn from their insights,
- The use of pupils in teams across the school: Pupil council, Eco-team, Sports Leaders; House teams; Eco team, Buddies, School Choir and Sport and other clubs,
- Elected school council representative to feedback views, ideas and concerns to their classes and to the staff team,
- Be explicitly taught a development of skills in speaking, listening and models of deductive / reflective work where pupils have the ability to learn both with teacher interaction and support, but increasingly with more independently,
- A Religious Education programme which develops self-esteem, knowledge and an ability to reflect on and develop individuals' own spiritual values,
- A carefully planned and adaptive PSHE curriculum,
- A Collective Worship programme to address, amongst others, the spiritual aspect of quiet and reflection,
- Experience excellent social and emotional support in school through formalised support groups, quick response work, pre-emptive support and carefully managed interactions and relationships. Specific advice is given at certain milestones of a pupil's life (moving from one Key Stage to another, how to approach the significant change of moving from Primary to Secondary School, managing the onset of puberty, births and deaths as well as separations etc),
- Participate in the wider community through work with local groups through our charity work and supporting a local Old People's Home,
- Investigate age appropriate social issues from the perspective of morality, Christianity and of other faiths, recognising the common ground and diversity that exists between them.

Many opportunities to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities, within the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities.

Promoting an understanding of Christianity from a global perspective through encounters with people, literature and the creative arts from different cultures;

Developing an understanding of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values.

Cultural Development

Aim

Cultural development refers to the growth of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of differing beliefs, customs and traditions. It is the development of a considered and educated response to those elements which give societies and groups their unique character and the systems of values and attitudes which form the basis of identity and cohesion within such societies and groups. It also provides opportunities for developing an understanding and respect for different cultures, faiths and beliefs, as well as an understanding and respect for different socio-economic groups within local, national and global communities. The school will promote the cultural traditions of our own area and the ethnic and cultural diversity of the world.

Objectives

St Chad's pupils are supported and encouraged to:

- Appreciate, respecting and celebrating the diversity of cultures, ethnicity and faith within school and within modern Britain and the wider world in terms of beliefs, values, attitudes, customs, knowledge and skills,
- Recognise that similarities and differences may exist between different societies, cultures, faiths and groups,
- Perceive in a positive light the contribution of the wide range of cultures, groups and faiths that have shaped their own heritage and the heritage of others and that contribute to the world we live in,
- Experience a range of cultural activities in terms of literature, music, technology, art and design, dance, drama, sport and other media;
- Broaden, develop and enrich their interests and insights through interacting with opportunities the school and the wider community provides.

In Practice at St Chad's CE VC Primary School we undertake:

- Educational visits at to experience history, faith, other cultures and ways of life,
- Educational visits to places of interest such as: libraries, museums, theatres, places of worship and other educational establishments in order to better understand other cultures and ways of life,
- A PSHE programme as described above,
- A celebration of diversity, language and culture through specific events such as Languages day,
- Collective worship and assemblies – a themed approach that give rise to many opportunities to explore SMSC and cultural diversity. Other events are also celebrated with drama, art, dance and presentations along with specific services such as Remembrance, annual carol services / Christmas events and celebrations of Easter and other religious festivals across all of the major religions,
- Provision of a quiet / reflective space in the playground, linked to the value theme we are exploring in school,
- Provision of prayer club and clubs such as mindfulness,
- Topic work across the school which explores 'culture' in all its various forms in relation to specific subject areas,
- Supported exploration of events and activities that people view as intrinsic to culture as well as cultural undertakings, such as trips to see expert musicians such as Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, sharing of seminal age appropriate texts such as works by Salman Rushdie, visiting the

sea side, and working to have children undertake activities (such as teddy bears' picnic, garden party) that people associate with traditional British Culture.

Implementation

The promotion of Social, Moral and Cultural development of each pupil is soon as the responsibility of all members of staff and of the wider school community.

Within R.E and Collective Worship

Allow pupils to investigate and reflect upon their own beliefs and values.

Provide opportunities for prayer/reflection/silence, the exploration of inner space.

Encourage a balance of music, speech, silence and the creative arts when exploring spiritual development.

Emphasise the Christian moral perspective whilst also offering models of morality in other faiths.

Through understanding of different cultures and faiths, develop appreciation and respect for the beliefs of others.

Promote an understanding of the difference between right and wrong.

Praise good behaviour positively and reward publicly.

Celebrate achievement and promote a sense of belonging, within the school and wider community.

Within the Wider Curriculum:

All subjects contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, whilst SMSC has particularly strong links to RE, Collective Worship, Pastoral Support, and PSHE.

All areas of the curriculum will draw examples from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Through the curriculum, we will promote the following:

Listening to the view points and ideas of others.

Encouraging pupils to develop a personal view on ethical questions.

Developing a sense of respect for the integrity of each person.

Fostering a sense of enquiry and open-mindedness.

Exploring an imaginative approach to the world.

Creating an atmosphere that enables pupils and staff to speak about their beliefs.

Developing responsibility in learning and setting personal targets.

Opportunities to develop knowledge, respect and appreciation for other cultures, for example through literature, music, art and design activities.

Working together in a range of groupings and situations, including working as teams.

Acquiring a code of behaviour that is applicable in all areas of pupils' lives, for example when visiting a place of worship and meeting people from a range of different cultures and faiths; including visitors to school.

In the ethos and implicit curriculum, St Chad's will:

Provide high level pastoral care from all staff giving pupils the chance to see caring in action.

Treat others with respect, showing empathy for others and considering the needs of other people.

Talk about their own experiences and feelings.

Explore relationships with other people.

Encourage pupils in personal conversations and during discussions in lessons, to express such feelings as wonder, change, unease, injustice or inequality whilst listening carefully to others' questions and responses.

Speak about difficult events, such as separation or death.

Share thoughts and feelings with other people.

Enable pupils to experience democratic decision making.

Set high expectations through formal discussion that will lead to raised awareness of high moral standards inside and outside the classroom.

Provide good role models.

Community Links

Everyone at St Chad's CE VC Primary School recognises the strong links with the local and wider community that we have.

In order to develop these links St Chad's reaches out to the community through the following:

Examples of Fundraising:

Children in Need, Poppies Appeal, Samaritan's Purse, Eleanor Children's Charity Trust, NSPCC, Crisis Centre, RNIB and many more.

Examples of School Events include:

Cycling Proficiency, Dance and arts from different cultures, Book Fair, Parent Assemblies, Concerts, Leavers' Service, Theatre Company visits, Nativity Services, Community Police Visits, Languages Day, Sports Day, World Book Day, Book at Bedtime.

Examples of Visitors to school:

Clergy, police, theatre company, nurse, Fire Brigade, police, Sports Development Teams including Bristol Rugby, parents, dancers, musicians, a variety of bands, a variety of sports coaches, Olympians, members of the local community such as members of The Memory Café, Men in Sheds, Councillors, parents, grandparents, local residents.

Examples of School Links with the Local Community:

Church, Summer Fair, Friends (PTA), Harvest Festival, working with local charities, supporting Southern Brooks, working with local Retirement Home.

Links with other schools:

Thorough transition arrangements with our Secondary Schools

Sports visits to other local schools, hosting Area Sports for many local Primary Schools, moderation work with a variety of schools, staff at all levels mentoring and supporting other schools, joint events with other schools such as "It's your move" and maths days, shared INSET days with local schools, research work with many universities.

Educational Visits

We undertake a hugely varied number of local trips and some that are further afield.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At St Chad's CE VC Primary School we listen to the views of our pupils and their parents/carers. Aspects of SMSC are evaluated through:

Pupil questionnaires, Parents' questionnaires, School council, Eco Schools, Assemblies team, sports leaders, formalised pastoral work, Parents evenings/ meetings.