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Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

DATE APPROVED BY SMNG	Feb 16		
REVIEW DATE Every 2 years	Spring 2018		
SIGNED HEAD TEACHER		DATE	23/2/16
SIGNED CHAIR OF GOVERNING BODY		DATE	23/2/16

To be read in conjunction with:

Religious Education, Sex and Relationships Education, Behaviour and Anti-Bullying, Collective Worship and the Equalities policies.

Introduction

At St Mary's Church of England Primary School the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is considered to be 'a whole school issue'.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values.

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

Principles

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for individual pupils, staff and for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about - helping pupils grow and develop as people.

It is an expectation at St Mary's Church of England Primary School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g. discussion, reflection, pupil participation, circle time etc.

The importance of relationships between all school staff, parents and governors is crucial. These relationships will be characterised by mutual respect, by positive attitudes, by the willingness to listen and be listened to and by the valuing of all pupils.

General Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988; St Mary's Church of England Primary School aims towards ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- To promote respect and consideration for differences in gender, race, religion
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society
- To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum

- To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self respect and self confidence
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities

Spiritual Development

We strive to support the children in the development of their spiritual life so that through reflection, they will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. Children's spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material well-being.

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 ones senses
- To promote an awareness of and enjoyment in using ones imaginative potential and 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 situations which are disturbing them
 - To consider the mystery of God and the wonder of his world
 - To promote self image and develop positive self esteem, respect for themselves and find an inner confidence and peace
 - To have the opportunity to develop personal beliefs
 - To explore the opportunity to pray
 - To know own strengths and acknowledge that can't do everything but will be better at something
 - To promote the ability to keep trying and seeking success

Moral Development

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At St Mary's Church of England Primary School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour.

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 or us in our relationships with others and, since His love is unconditional and freely given, we have been given the freedom to respond to His love or reflect Him. How we understand and use this gift of freedom is crucial to our moral development.

Aims for Moral Development

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions
- To understand that love is at the heart of the Christian understanding of morality
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions
- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own 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 and to understand that there are consequences to our actions
- To treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves

Social Development

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, 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 cooperation such membership requires.

God did not create mankind for life in isolation, but for the formation of social unity. Therefore it is part of the school's responsibility to support pupils and their families in the formation of good social attitudes. The school community will nurture our pupils to:

- To relate positively to others and learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with membership of a group or community
- To become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others
- To participate fully and take responsibility in the classroom and in the school
- To use appropriate behaviour, according to situations
- To participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co-operative skills that will help all to live with each other
- 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 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

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

Aims for Cultural Development

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background
- To respond to cultural events
- To share different cultural experiences To respect different cultural traditions
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition
- To develop a balanced approach to retaining the traditions of our Christian society, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present
- To be introduced to the values and customs held within our Anglican, Christian tradition

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 develop the ability to value these independently

Implementation:

The promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of each child is seen as the responsibility of all members of staff. Much of this development should be assimilated through the ethos of the school. However, there are many opportunities within cross curricular work to focus on the aims and objectives outlined. All children regardless of gender, ability or social background will receive the same teaching with each of their views being taken into account.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities 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.

Practical activities to develop SMSC will include:

- working together in different groupings and situations
- encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times
- taking responsibility eg playground buddies
- encouraging teamwork in PE and games
- appreciation of and respect for the work and performance of other children

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

- Evaluating SMSC, in every lesson observation, following Ofsted guidelines. Pupil consultation
- Learning walks
- Following our monitoring cycle.

Ethos

At St Mary's Church of England School we aim to provide a happy, stimulating and secure environment, reflecting the school's Christian ethos where each pupil is given the challenge and opportunity to develop his/her full potential while enjoying learning and life.

We endeavour to provide an environment and ethos in which children and adults can grow and develop in spirituality and where positive attitudes and consistency provide children with good role models, and similarly, older children are expected to demonstrate good behaviour and support to younger children. All children are valued equally whatever their stage of development, and are entitled to maximum success. The ethos encourages safe, sensible behaviour incorporating good manners, consideration, courtesy and respect for others whilst encouraging imagination, inspiration and reflection.