



SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMSC) POLICY

1 Introduction:

St Michael's promotes a Christian ethos, and, by example and direct teaching, follows and promotes the teachings of Jesus, whilst recognising that not all of its members will be practising Christians.

We recognise that the personal development of pupils: spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve.

We therefore 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 other cultures. This is a whole school issue.

All curriculum areas 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.

The integrity and spirituality of pupils from other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and pupils will be given access to alternative views.

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 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.



2 General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our 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 give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

3 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Aims

In order to foster spiritual development, St Michael's CE First School aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God;
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of our school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them;
- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (eg using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);
- Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life;
- Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth;
- Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others.

4 Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring:

The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be explicitly rooted in our Christian values as documented in all school policies

- Opportunities for spiritual development will be proactively planned into the curriculum and actively encouraged in all areas of school life;
- Collective Worship will celebrate the love of God for every individual and provide opportunities for children to respond to this;
- The school building and outdoor environment will provide appropriate spaces for silence, stillness and prayer in reflection areas, the spiritual garden and interactive prayer station.
- That children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight will be through the creative arts and interactive multi-sensory teaching strategies;

- That the RE curriculum will deliver knowledge and understanding about a range of faith perspectives relating to spirituality;
- That children will be given as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed, cherished and protected.

5 MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Aims:

To foster moral development, St Michael's CE First School aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Recognise the difference between right and wrong and begin to understand how Christian values inform a particular perspective on moral choices;
- Understand how our moral choices can affect the lives of others;
- Be able to work together to agree codes of behaviour that are appropriate for our school community;
- Understand the centrality of forgiveness and reconciliation in the life and culture of our school;
- Begin to engage with big questions concerning morality and ethical issues in the wider community and in the world, and to realise that each of us has a responsibility to work for justice.

6 Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, our school pursues these aims by ensuring that:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life are explicitly rooted in our Christian Values
- Opportunities for moral development will be proactively planned into the curriculum and positively encouraged in all areas of school life;
- Christian values are shared with members of our school community through our website and school documentation as well as through colourful images; posters, classroom displays, and more widely around the school building;
- Collective worship celebrates practical demonstrations of Christian values lived out in the life of the school, local, and wider community.
- Our behaviour policy makes clear that every child is treated fairly and is always offered the opportunity for a fresh start;
- Parents and carers are made aware, through our website and other documentation, of our school's expectations regarding behaviour, as well as the rewards and sanctions that we operate;
- Children are made aware of moral and ethical issues in the national and international context through, for example, representatives from charities being invited into school to talk about their work;
- The School Council is fully involved, alongside teachers, senior leaders and governors in reviewing the impact of our Christian values on the behaviour, culture and ethos of our school.

7 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Aims:

To foster social development, the school aims to provide opportunities for children to:

- Build relationships founded upon our Christian values;

- Gain a clear understanding of the place of the church school within the wider Christian community including local, national and worldwide;
- Access pastoral support from school staff, local clergy and parish team members;
- Be equipped to become responsible citizens who recognise the importance of service and working for the 'common good';
- Feel a sense of genuine pride in the school and their membership of it.

8 Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, we pursue these aims by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be explicitly rooted in our Christian values, as documented in all school policies;
- Opportunities for social development will be explicitly planned into the curriculum and in all areas of school life;
- Collective Worship and assemblies will celebrate and reward practical demonstrations of our Christian values such as, service to the community, and acts of friendship and generosity, particularly shown towards children facing difficulties or challenges through the Star of the Week awards;
- Strong mutually supportive links will be maintained and developed with our local community through participation in charity events and acts of service;
- Strong, mutually supportive links will be maintained and developed with the local and national church and the worldwide Anglican communion through regular worship in the parish church, participation in parish events, and church members supporting the school;
- The School Council is trained and supported to play an active part with staff and governors in monitoring and evaluating the social cohesiveness of the school community;
- There is active engagement with parents and carers through the 'open door policy' and active support of Friends activities.

9 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Aims

To foster social development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Gain a knowledge and understanding of the values from their own culture, heritage, traditions and an appreciation of how they have evolved and developed over time;
- Knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the cultures of those with whom they interact day by day, as well as other cultures represented in the UK;
- Develop a knowledge of the local Christian heritage, particularly through visits to local churches and the Cathedral, and to explore their relationship to it;
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of the cultural diversity of Christianity through links overseas.

10 Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, we aim pursue our aims by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as friendship, generosity, and creativity, as documented in all school policies;
- The curriculum will be delivered using creative and imaginative teaching strategies which allow individual gifts and talents to flourish;

- A range of art forms will be used to teach children about Christian heritage and tradition, and also the heritages and traditions of other faiths;
- Children are given opportunities to take part in and respond to cultural and artistic enterprises;
- Children explore current affairs and different interpretations of events by the media;
- Children explore the ways in which cultural, racial, and religious prejudice can take root and learn how to recognise this and other forms of discrimination as well as ways to counter it;
- Whole school projects which celebrate diversity within the local and wider community feature in our curriculum;
- Links with our Diocese teach children that as a church school, we are a part of the World Wide Anglican Communion which comprises a rich cultural diversity of Christian traditions and practices.

11 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SMSC DEVELOPMENT

SMSC development is the responsibility of all staff and governors, as it will have a fundamental impact on the quality and nature of the education offered by our school.

1. The Head teacher has overall responsibility for monitoring SMSC development in school.
2. The SMSC lead will ensure that our current policy is regularly reviewed, up to date, and a true reflection of practise in this school;
3. The SMSC lead has responsibility for ensuring that all staff, parents and governors understand how the school interprets SMSC and to ensure that regular, appropriate professional development is provided;
4. The SMSC lead will liaise with staff, Committee 2 of the governing body and the School Council to monitor and evaluate the impact of opportunities for SMSC across the curriculum.

This will be achieved by:

- a. auditing curriculum policies and schemes of work to ensure that the school's values are the starting point for curriculum design;
- b. monitoring of lesson plans and the quality of teaching and learning;
- c. evaluating impact of SMSC provision through work scrutiny, reflection journals, and pupil conferencing;
- d. input at staff meetings, school governors' meetings and parents' forum to maintain the profile of SMSC in the school;
- e. sharing good practise from within our school with other schools where appropriate;
- f. ensuring that SMSC development is a priority on the school development plan.

This policy has been approved by the Governing Body and Head teacher of St. Michael's C of E First School.



Chair of Governor Committee...1....

Signed:*V Robinson*

Print Name: VEDA ROBINSON.....

Date:..... 4.7.16... ..

Head teacher

Signed:*G Johnston*.....

Print name:.....GAVIN JOHNSTON.....

Date:4.7.16.....

REVIEW DATESummer 2018... ..