



St John's CE (A) Primary School

Dedication - Courage - Joy

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Guidance

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Galatians 5:22-23

INTENT:

Our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) policy is based on the Vision and Values of our Christian School.

As a Church Of England School our aim is for an outstanding education that will inspire children in our care to flourish, develop their hearts and minds and enable them to become happy, healthy, global citizens drawing inspiration from our Christian Values.

The purpose of this policy, is to set out clearly to all stakeholders the ways in which we develop our children spiritually, culturally and morally. We recognise as a Church of England school that spiritual development is of upmost importance to our children and that developing them morally and culturally will contribute enormously to them becoming happy, healthy, global citizens.

Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:7

At St John's CE (A) Primary School we consider the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils to be at the centre of our school ethos and the responsibility of the whole curriculum including our extra-curricular activities.

We strive to provide and maintain for our pupils an education that provides opportunities enabling them to explore and develop their own values and beliefs; develop spiritual awareness; strive for high standards of personal behaviour; cultivate a positive caring attitude towards other people; develop an understanding of their social and cultural traditions; and gain an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

At St. John's we believe that spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted through the school ethos, the Christian distinctiveness of the school, collective worship, all curriculum areas, our behaviour policy, extra-curricular and other activities.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality in line with the **Equality Act 2010** (see appendix).

Aims of SMSC

- To encourage pupils to develop their own beliefs and values about life and religion
- To promote an appreciation of all individuals and shared beliefs.
- To develop appropriate personal and social behaviour in response to other cultures and environments.

- To develop an awareness of oneself in terms of thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities and experiences and the development of self-respect.
- To recognise and value the worth of all individuals irrespective of gender, ethnicity, sexuality or religion thus developing a sense of community and the ability to build relationships with others.
- To promote curiosity in order to make sense of the world.
- To promote courageous advocacy and a sense of justice within our pupils.

Responsibility for the policy and procedure

Role of the governing body

The governing body has:

- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher (Maxine Rizk) to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- responsibility for ensuring this policy and all policies are maintained and updated regularly;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- the responsibility of involving the School Council in the development, approval, implementation and review of this policy;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy

Role of the Headteacher / Principal

The Head teacher will:

- ensure all school personnel, students and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- work closely with the link governor and coordinator for SMSC;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

Role of the coordinator for SMSC (RE Subject lead).

The coordinator for SMSC will:

- lead the development of this policy throughout the school;
- work closely with the Head teacher (Maxine Rizk) and link governor;
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- provide training for all staff on induction;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- undertake risk assessments when required;
- review and monitor (SMSC audit);

Spiritual development

We regard spiritual development as the way in which pupils acquire personal beliefs and values, especially on questions about religion, whether life has purpose, and basic personal and social behaviour.

At St. John's we try to help pupils make sense of these questions through the curriculum, collective worship (see collective worship policy & **Strand 6 SIAMS 2018 schedule**), the Christian distinctiveness and mindfulness opportunities within the curriculum. We see spiritual development as an important element of a pupil's education and fundamental to other areas of learning, development of happy hearts and minds and ultimately global citizenship.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- enhance their spiritual awareness through quiet/reflection spaces (the rainbow room);
- experience mindfulness through the curriculum;
- sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience;
- develop their capacity for critical and independent thought;
- foster their emotional life and ability to express their feelings;
- empathise with others;
- discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences;
- form and maintain worthwhile satisfying relationships that cherish themselves, and others, as uniquely and wonderfully made (**Strand 5 SIAMS 2018 schedule**).
- form healthy relationships where they offer dignity and respect to others (**Strand 5 SIAMS 2018 schedule**).
- reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life

Moral development

We believe that pupils' moral development involves:

- acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict;
- a concern for others and the will to do what is right;
- reflecting on the consequences of their actions;
- learning forgiveness and reconciliation that encourages good mental health, and enables all to flourish and live well together (**Strand 4 SIAMS 2018 schedule**);
- developing knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes in order for them to make responsible moral decisions and to act on them.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- tell the truth;
- keep promises (unless there is a safeguarding issue);
- respect the rights and property of others;
- act with consideration towards others;
- help those less fortunate than themselves;
- take personal responsibility for their actions;
- have self-discipline;
- understand the meaning of forgiveness and reconciliation (**Strand 4 SIAMS 2018 schedule**);
- understand the meaning of 'good disagreement' (**Strand 4 SIAMS 2018 schedule**)

Social development

We believe social development is concerned with the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society.

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- develop the ability to be aspirational, resilient and persevere when things go wrong **(Strand 3 SIAMS 2018 schedule)**
- overcome barriers to their own learning and to make positive choices **(Strand 3 SIAMS 2018 schedule)**
- become courageous advocates for change in their local, national & global communities **(Strand 3 SIAMS 2018 schedule)**
- understand social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged and how they can challenge injustice **(Strand 3 SIAMS 2018 schedule)**
- connect the schools ethical and charitable activities to our vision and values **(Strand 3 SIAMS 2018 schedule)**
- ask the 'big questions' about life that develop their understanding of disadvantage, deprivation and the exploitation of the natural world **(Strand 3 SIAMS 2018 schedule)**
- engage in diocesan and other global companion/world links **(Strand 3 SIAMS 2018 schedule)**

Cultural development

We want our pupils to acquire:

- understanding of, respect for and the ability to celebrate difference and diversity within their school, local, national and global communities. **(Strand 5 SIAMS 2018 schedule)**
- a respect for their own culture and that of others;
- an interest in others' ways of doing things and a curiosity about differences

We aim that our pupils develop:

- knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes that they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture

We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society;
- develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment;

Organisation

We believe spiritual, moral, social and cultural development takes place across all curriculum areas and within activities that provide opportunities to allow pupils to:

- talk about personal experiences and feelings;
- express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs;
- speak about difficult events;
- share thoughts and feelings with other people;
- explore relationships with friends, family and others;
- consider others needs and behaviour;
- show empathy;
- develop self-esteem and a respect for others;
- develop a sense of belonging;
- develop the skills and attributes that enables them to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally

Role of school employees

School personnel will:

- comply with all aspects of this policy;
- implement the school's equalities policy and schemes;
- report and deal with all incidents of discrimination;
- attend appropriate training sessions on equality;
- report any concerns they have on any aspect of the school community

Role of pupils

Pupils will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- listen carefully to all instructions given by the teacher;
- ask for further help if they do not understand;
- treat others, their work and equipment with respect;
- engage with the school 'Good to be Green' behaviour policy;
- liaise with the school council;
- take part in questionnaires and surveys;

Raising awareness

This will be achieved through

- the prospectus
- the school website
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communication with home e.g. newsletter
- transition
- collective worship

Training

We ensure that all school personnel have equal chances of training, career development and promotion.

Periodic training will be organised for all school personnel so that they are kept up to date with new information and guide lines concerning equal opportunities.

Role of parents / carers

Parents/carers will:

- be aware of and comply with this policy;
- be asked to take part in periodic surveys conducted by the school

Monitoring the effectiveness of the policy

The practical application of this policy will be reviewed annually or when the need arises by the Head teacher.

Approved and signed off by

Headteacher/Principal.....

Chair of
Governors.....

