

St John's Church of England School, Stanmore



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development POLICY

Reviewed Autumn 2021
To be reviewed Summer 2024

School Vision

'.....I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength'. Phil 4:13.

At St John's we foster an ethos deeply rooted in the Bible, underpinned by **faith** and committed to educational excellence. In our community we respect that everyone is uniquely made in the image of God. We grow together in **wisdom, compassion, strength** and instil a sense of **hope** for all to flourish.

'We make a difference'

Supported By our School Vision

Through our school vision's bible reference: '*...I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength*'. Phil 4:13, we encourage our pupils to know that they can achieve educational excellence through strength of their faith and belief. Our school ethos contributes to this as it is deeply rooted in the bible helping to support pupil's spiritual and moral development. In our community we respect that everyone is uniquely made in the image of God. Through this respect we encourage our pupils to understand and accept diversity and difference within cultures and each other.

Socially we encourage our pupils to grow together in **wisdom, compassion, strength** and instil a sense of **hope** for all to flourish. By sharing and working together our pupils gain wisdom and strengths. They learn compassion for one another, understanding that supporting one another will allow them to grow and flourish.

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (S.M.S.C.)

Introduction

At St John's 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,
- an appreciation of the diversity and richness of their cultures.

The National Curriculum has two aims relating to the school curriculum:

- The school curriculum should aim to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve.
- The school curriculum should aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and expectations of life.

These two aims reinforce each other. SMSC plays a significant part in ability to learn and to achieve. All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Christian values, principles and spirituality will be explored throughout the curriculum. The integrity and spirituality of 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 valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families, visitors and other members of staff working within the school. Children 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.

Children should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. Each class decides on their class rules to follow through the school year, as well as following the main rules which govern the school which reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupil's work and achievements.

2. Aims of S.M.S.C.

At St. John's we:

- Ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- Ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- Ensure that a child's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- Ensure that children know what is expected of them and why.
- Give each child a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- Enable children to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Enable children to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- Give each child the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility

3. Learning and Teaching Spiritual Development

As a Church of England School we seek to anchor our spiritual development in the Christian faith, as expressed by our school vision statement through:

- Sustaining pupil's self-esteem in their learning experience
- Ensuring that through our vision, values, rules, curriculum and teaching we promote tolerance and respect for all cultures, faiths and lifestyles.
- Developing their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Experiencing moments of stillness and reflection for example in the weekly Celebration Acts of Worship, church services and within the classroom.
- Discussing their beliefs, opinions, feelings, values and respond to personal experiences and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships

- Reflecting on, considering and celebrating the wonders and mysteries of life.

Children are given the opportunity to develop their spirituality through class teaching, debates, class trips to visit places of interest and curiosity throughout London and the surrounding area and whole school events.

Moral Development – as a school we provide learning opportunities that will enable children to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Recognise the challenge of religious teaching particularly that of Jesus.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
- Distinguish between right and wrong
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgments

Social Development – as a school we promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about service in the school and wider community
- Begin to understand the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged.

Cultural Development – as a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain and in London and how these influence individuals and society.
- To develop tolerance and respect for those who have different cultural values from ours.
- Recognise Christianity as a worldwide faith.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.

Development in SMSC takes place across all curriculum areas. SMSC has particularly strong links to Religious Education, Collective Worship and Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education. Within all curricular activities, children will be encouraged to reflect on the significance of what they are learning, to recognise any challenges to their own attitudes and lifestyle and to recognise a spiritual dimension to their lives. All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. Through classroom discussions we will give the children opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs

- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider the needs and behaviour of others
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable children to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally e.g. empathy, respect, open-mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness etc.

Throughout the curriculum children are supported and encouraged 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 and learn how to resolve problems and conflicts
- Experiencing good role models
- Take turns and share equipment
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively

Practical activities within the daily school routine in St. John's to develop SMSC include:

- children being given the opportunity to work together in different groupings and situations in sporting, social and academic contexts.
- Encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times.
- Taking responsibility e.g. class monitors, lunch monitors, register monitors, assembly monitors, cloakroom monitors, Buddy Reading System, working Houses, delivering messages and looking after younger children.
- Encouraging teamwork and good sportsmanship in PE and games
- Appreciation of and respect for the work and performance of other children regardless of ability.
- Hearing music from different composers, cultures and genres e.g. in music for reflection time at the start of collective worship.
- Meeting people from different cultures and countries during focus days such as Black History Week, International days and R.E Days. Visitors, parents and carers are actively encouraged to come into the classroom to talk to the children about current topic work they are learning about, including religious festivals such as Diwali.
- Participating in a variety of different educational visits
- Participation in live performances
- Use of assembly themes to explore important aspects of our heritage, British Values and other cultures e.g. festival days, the patron saints and global events.
- Studying literature and art from different cultures supported by visits from writers and artists and participating in workshops

- Opportunities in music to learn, listen and respond to songs from different cultures and play a range of instruments.
- Studying the contributions to society that certain famous people have made

4. Links with the wider community

- Visitors are always welcomed into our school
- Links with the local church are fostered and local clergy lead Acts of Worship once a week and whole school services each term.
- The school supports the work of a variety of charities.
- The development of strong home-school links is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the children.
- Children will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment.
- Liaison with the Local Authority, to support the primary curriculum and effective transition, takes place regularly.
- The development of strong home-school links is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the children.
- Children will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment.
- Liaison with the Local Authority and the LDBS (London Diocesan Board), to support the primary curriculum and effective transition, takes place regularly.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

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

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by RE/PSHE/ /head teacher/governors.
- Regular discussions at staff and governors' meetings
- Sharing of classroom work and practice

5. Inclusion

The aims of our school enables each child to reach their potential and reflects our ethos of valuing individuality. We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We believe that all pupils have a right to experience a real environment in which they can learn that people are not all the same. We believe that inclusion is about the school fitting in around the child.

7. Implementation

The implementation of this policy and the planning and teaching of SMSC is the responsibility of all staff.