

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy



St Werburgh's C of E Primary School

Date: September 2018

Written by Angie Ford

To be revised: September 2020

Approved: _____

Introduction

St Werburgh's C of E (Aided) Primary School promotes a Christian ethos and follows and promotes the teachings of Jesus. We acknowledge and embrace The Church of England's vision for education taken from John 10.10, and our aim is to offer our children "life in all its fullness". Our vision statement of "Achieve, Believe, Together" is an essential element in achieving this objective. Staff and Governors recognise that our individual pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development plays a significant role in their overall education and their ability to learn and achieve.

We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own 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.

Staff plan opportunities throughout the curriculum for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. There will be regular opportunities for discussion and personal reflection. The integrity and spirituality of pupils' own faiths and backgrounds will be respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and all pupils will be given opportunities to discuss 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 of 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 class room rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

General aims

Our school aims to ensure:

- * That all stakeholders are aware of our values and principles as they relate to the SMSC development of our pupils.
- * There is a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and throughout the school as a whole.
- * That each pupil's education is set within a personal context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, experience, beliefs and background.
- * That each pupil experiences a wide range of opportunities which enable him or her to fully develop as individuals, fully aware of their responsibilities.

Spiritual Development

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to :

- * Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- * Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought

- * Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- * Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- * Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- * Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- * Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

Moral Development

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to :

- * Recognise the unique value of each individual
- * Recognise the challenge of Jesus' teaching
- * 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 judgements.

Social Development

As a school we aim to provide learning 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 Christian imperative for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged

Cultural Development

As a school 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
- * Recognise Christianity as a world faith
- * Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment

- * Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions

Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle.

All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Class discussions will give pupils opportunities to :

- * Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- * Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- * Speak about difficult events eg bullying, death etc
- * Share thoughts and feelings with other people
- * Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- * Consider others' needs and behaviour
- * Show empathy
- * Develop self-esteem and respect for others
- * Develop a sense of belonging
- * Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally- eg empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to :

- * Listen and talk to each other
- * Learn an awareness of treating all as equals
- * Agree and disagree

- * Take turns and share equipment
- * Work collaboratively and cooperatively

Practical activities to develop SMSC include:

- * Working together in different grouping and situations
- * Encouraging the children to behave appropriately at lunch times
- * Taking responsibilities eg class monitors, Playground Peacemakers, Worship Group
- * Encouraging teamwork 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
- * Meeting people from different cultures and countries
- * Participating in a variety of different educational visits
- * Participation in live performances
- * Use of collective worship themes to explore important aspects of our heritage and other cultures
- * Studying art and literature from different cultures
- * Opportunities for the children to hear and see live performances by professional actors, dancers and musicians
- * Opportunities to make and evaluate food from other cultures
- * Opportunities in music to learn songs from different cultures
- * Studying the contributions to society that certain famous people have made.

Links with the wider community:

- * Visitors are welcomed into our school
- * Visits to The Holocaust Memorial Centre and places of worship of other faiths are arranged to support understanding of different cultures
- * The school supports the work of various charities
- * The development of a strong home school agreement is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the children

- * Children are taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment
- * Liaison with our local secondary schools to support effective transition takes place regularly.

Monitoring and evaluation

Provision and impact of SMSC development is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis by:

- * Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by co-ordinators/ senior leadership team/ head teacher/ governors.
- * Regular discussions at staff and governors' meetings.
- * Audit of relevant policies and units of work

Promoting Fundamental British Values

The government set out its definition of British Values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister this year. At St Werburgh's Church of England Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

- **Democracy**
Democracy is encouraged within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our School and Class Councils. The elections of School Councillors, Eco Representatives and Playground Peacemakers are based solely on pupil votes.
- **The Rule of Law**
At St Werburgh's we begin by teaching the necessity of rules. Rules to keep us safe in our classroom and around school. Children understand that our rules are governed by the Golden Rule. As children develop they are taught that rules in the community, wider community and the country are Laws.

- Individual Liberty

Within school pupils are encouraged to express their personal opinions in a climate of safety and respect for others. The opportunity to express themselves, their beliefs and opinions are promoted through our daily curriculum and extensive extra-curricular activities.

- Mutual Respect

Respect for one another permeates the ethos of St Werburgh's School. Posters, pictures and the School Vision and Aims embrace this value. The behaviour and attitude of all stakeholders of the school demonstrate and model mutual respect for one another.

- Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Through our curriculum, including enquiry based Religious Education, children develop an understanding of their place within a culturally diverse society. Opportunities through the curriculum, visits and visitors allow children to appreciate different faiths and beliefs which prevent prejudice and embrace tolerance.

This policy was reviewed and approved by Governors on