



Philosophy

At St. Mary's CE (A) First School, we want our pupils to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens. We recognise the importance of both the academic and personal development and well-being of every child in our school. The roots of our vision are embedded in love and respect, our core Christian values. From this central premise; that everyone is loved by God and that we should love one another, we enable our children to show love and respect for themselves, others and God's creation. We recognise the importance of providing a range of opportunities for our pupils to respond to, that supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments with an understanding and an overview of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda.

What is SMSC?

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC) which has its basis in 'The Good Samaritan'. (NB whilst each dimension is outlined separately there is a great deal of overlap between the four areas).

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development enables people to look within themselves at their human relationships, at the wider world. The Spiritual development of all our children is addressed through the ethos of the school. As a church school we include Christian Spiritual practices including, prayer, worship, celebration of festivals and reading/reflection on the Bible within Collective Worship, RE and the wider curriculum.

We are committed to:

- * celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our pupils bring as part of their family/culture heritage and to building an awareness of and respect for others' spiritual and religious beliefs.
- * fostering common human values, linked to the parable of the Good Samaritan, and building spiritual capacities to promote self-worth.
- * raising self-esteem and the value of others.
- * helping our pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on ultimate questions.
- * developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a sense of awe and wonder.

Moral Development

Moral development: knowing what is right and wrong and acting on it accordingly. We are committed to encouraging pupils:

- * to be truthful and honest.
- * to respect the rights and property of others, their opinions and customs, even when they are different from our own. Links are explicitly made to the parable of the Good Samaritan.
- * to help and forgive others.
- * to solve differences of opinion in non-violent ways and consequently rejecting all forms of bullying, cruelty, dishonesty, violence and discrimination.

Social Development

Social development: developing an understanding of rights and responsibilities of living in a community of being a "responsible citizen". We are committed to:

- * fostering the skills and qualities of team building through the development of self-confidence, co-operation, sensitivity to others, reliability, initiative and understanding •
- * providing an environment where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society. We use the social and emotion aspects of learning (to support our pupils' social development.
- * at St. Mary's our school community plays a vital role to our social development and our strong relationships with the community form the basis of many of our values.

Cultural Development

Cultural development: knowledge and understanding of others' cultural traditions. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the world:

- * by promoting an appreciation of our own cultural tradition/s and encouraging an appreciation of other peoples' cultural traditions
- * celebrating the richness of culture and tradition.
- * at St. Mary's we help to develop tolerance and respect for other beliefs and cultures and this is rooted in our school values.

Principles

In light of this, we will ensure that the SMSC development of our pupils is promoted across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school by:

- providing an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enables pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution
- encouraging teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to develop SMSC development and to ensure subject leader have an understanding of SMSC education in their subject
- recognising the importance of our collective worship programme in supporting and encouraging SMSC development
- reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school development.

Agreed by Governors: October 2020

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