

St Brigid's Catholic Primary School



Social, Moral, Spiritual & Cultural (SMSC) Development Policy

2023

Trusting in God – we love, believe and achieve.....together.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that our school provides opportunities for pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

Content

All aspects of our school life and curriculum have the potential to contribute to these four kinds of development. The ethos of our school and the values, which are implicit in the life and work of our school, will have a powerful effect on the extent to which this potential is realised.

We believe the foundations of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are laid at home. The school programme for promoting pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is seen as complementing and supporting the work of parents and carers.

The place of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

It is important to recognise the role of St Brigid's in promoting these four kinds of development, because education is concerned with far more than just giving children a body of knowledge and a range of skills. Here at St Brigid's we believe our school community, ethos and values will have a positive effect on how children think about themselves and their global citizens, about their understandings of that which is right and that which is wrong, how they relate to others and their appreciation of their own uniqueness, richness and diversity of their own and other ways of life.

Social Development

This enables pupils to participate fully in the customs and traditions of family, friendship groups, school, local and wider community groups. There will be a balance of the positive and satisfying elements of belonging to a group along with the demands and obligations of such a membership.

Aims and Objectives for Social Development

- To use appropriate behaviour in a range of situations and to show care and consideration for others
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and work cooperatively with others and to become a positive member of caring communities ultimately contributing significantly to the global community
- To realise that every individual has something to offer and to use their own initiative responsibly

Promoting Social Development

At St Brigid's we promote social development by encouraging people to relate positively to each other. We provide excellent role models from a variety of gender, race and cultural backgrounds in a range of situations to aid and encourage our pupils to take responsibility and become more involved in effective decision-making. Our children are provided with a wealth of opportunities to build their social skill set both on and off site to support them in growing and maturing into supportive citizens of their communities who make a positive impact.

Moral Development

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At St Brigid's, we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour. In light of this we have recently developed our behaviour policy with contributions from pupils, parents and staff.

Aims and Objectives for Moral Development

- To understand the principles behind decisions and actions and to make decisions accepting and understating the consequences or their actions and the actions of others.
- To take responsibility for their own moral decisions moving away from a taught morality
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong and to value the importance of telling the truth
- To respect the rights, views and properties of others
- To exercise self- discipline
- To develop high expectations and themselves and others with patience, positivity and enthusiasm
- To develop an empathetic approach to others

Promoting Moral Development

At St Brigid's, we promote moral development through a clear code of behaviour throughout our curriculum where high personal standards are expected. The influence of our RE Topics plays an important role in this area, scripture and parables shared with our children enable them to identify ways which we can put things right and acknowledge our wrongdoings. Our school community also take a proactive role in supporting our children through Sacraments such as Reconciliation, encouraging our children to seek forgiveness towards themselves and others. This is further developed throughout our extensive PREVENT curriculum whereby all pupils consider issues of acceptance, respect, equality and appreciation of diversity, as evident on our medium-term plan.

Spiritual Development

This strand relates to the pursuit for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It is concerned with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs. It is not solely linked to a particular doctrine or faith and spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone for essential growth.

Aims and Objectives for Spiritual Development

- To develop the ability to listen and be still
- To develop the skill to use all one's senses and the ability to reflect

- To develop the use of imagination to explore and sense wonder and mystery in the world and to marvel at our findings
- To develop self- confidence and the ability to recognise the special nature of human relationships
- To nurture and develop a sense of self- worth and appreciation

Promoting Spiritual Development

At St Brigid's School, we are passionate in our endeavour to provide our pupils with opportunities to develop their spirituality by reflecting on their own and others experiences, acquiring self-knowledge, thinking about their own beliefs, values and aspirations, making personal responses to questions about the purpose and meaning of life. Religious Education, collective worship and our catholic school ethos contribute significantly the spiritual development of all within our school community.

Cultural Development

Cultural development focuses on the need to develop a sense of personal identity whilst simultaneously acquiring understanding, and acceptance of our own cultural tradition and beliefs and that of others.

Aims and Objectives for Cultural Development

- To develop a sense of belonging and to encourage our pupils to continue to embrace their own culture
- To respond positively to and appreciate a diverse range of cultural events
- To share and respect different cultural traditions and experiences
- To develop an appreciation of the Arts and a love of learning

Promoting Cultural Development

We endeavour to provide our pupils with a multitude of opportunity so that they may engage in a vast spectrum of cultural activities. Some cultural traditions are explored with the assistance of our pupils and their families as they proudly teach others about their own customs and traditions.

Implementation of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

This is achieved through vast opportunities within our curriculum. This curriculum was devised by staff and children to ensure it met the needs of our children and built upon their interests, backgrounds and experiences. Our cross- curricular approach further supports the implementation of SMSC with a focus on themes such as the Well-Being, School of Sanctuary and Live Simply awards.

We have a school council in operation and they hold positions of responsibility such as buddies. These provide roles many opportunities for learning, promoting and developing SMSC.

Adults and children, following the school Mission Statement, provide good role models at all levels. Expectation of good behaviour and respect for others is high throughout the school.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Subject Leaders for RE and PSHE, the SLT and Governors will review this policy every two years. Subject leaders will ensure that there are opportunities for SMSC teaching in all subjects, which will be evidenced through lessons, social media (X, formerly Twitter) and school displays.

Policy Review

Policy update: October 2023

Sent to the Governors: October 2023

Committee Responsible: FGB

Review: October 2025

Staff Responsible: RE Subject Lead – Kerry Quinton