

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Policy (SMSC)

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Approved by:	Mr Wilson	Date: 13.01.23
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Last reviewed on:	13.01.23
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Next review due by:	January 2024
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1. Introduction

The school recognise that every child has a valuable contribution to make to the life of our school. It is our intention to create good local, national and global citizens, who develop good character, resilience and grit. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural elements of pupils' development are inter-related. Although we separate these elements for the purpose of identifying where they occur, it should not be forgotten that there is much overlap between them, not least in respect of spirituality and its links to pupils' attitudes, morals, behaviour in society and cultural understanding.

2. Aims

At The James Cambell Primary School, we seek to create a cohesive, compassionate community, in which children can develop relationship skills, emotional literacy, health and wellbeing. We aim to develop children who are able to make personal decisions and choices which reflect their spiritual, moral, social & cultural awareness.

We therefore provide a planned assembly timetable, school and class council meetings, and a rich and balanced curriculum that gives our children opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs. A positive caring attitude develops an appreciation of the diversity and richness of their cultures and develops a knowledge of their social and moral responsibilities.

3. Teaching and Learning

At The James Cambell Primary School, we recognise the importance of SMSC education and it therefore features in every curriculum area, as well as being embedded within the ethos of the school through assemblies, organisation and extended activities.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is not the imposition of a religious faith or to religion in general. However, spiritual development may lead to the acceptance of a faith or it may not. The development of an individual's own personal spirituality is a journey or a quest which seeks to know, develop and understand one's own innerself, values, meaning and purpose. Children explore the fundamental British Value of exploring and respecting the values and beliefs of others. We will encourage children's spiritual development by:

- giving children the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs, and the way in which they impact on peoples' lives;
- encouraging children to explore and develop what animates themselves and others; developing curiosity and asking questions, exploring the awe and wonder of the world around them,
- giving children the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them can be helpful;
- developing a climate or ethos within which all children can grow and flourish, enjoying individual liberty and mutual respect;
- accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals, including tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- promoting learning opportunities which value children's questions, encourage deeper questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns;

We do this through:

- Religious Education curriculum
- Assemblies and celebrations of values: SMSC, British Values, Votes for Schools
- PSHE curriculum
- Extended curriculum activities: trips, visitors and residential visits
- Celebration of different religious and cultural festivals: Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year
- Visiting places of worship
- Charitable days: Children in Need, Red Nose Day, NSPCC
- Promotion of the school's values

Moral Development

We aim to enable pupils to build a framework of moral values which regulates their personal behaviour. We also help them to understand the expectations of society's shared and agreed values, including democracy, justice and the rule of law and how these change over time. We recognise the need to help our pupils to balance their right to an opinion and to freedom of speech, with their respect and tolerance of others' values and beliefs. We will encourage children's moral development by:

- providing opportunities for reflection and the development of their own opinions;
- helping them to recognise and resolve the moral issues and dilemmas implicit in a given context;
- enabling them to make and act upon informed choices, taking right and wrong into account;
- understanding that there are issues where there is disagreement or conflict and respecting others' views;
- encouraging them to take pride in themselves and their work;
- developing the personal skills and qualities necessary to manage situations, such as being able to:
 - make decisions;
 - reflect on and change personal behaviour;

- resist peer pressure;
- show respect and compassion for themselves, others and the environment;
- challenge behaviour which does not reflect this code, such as dishonesty, injustice, discrimination and the misuse of power;
- abide by “fair play”, being good winners and losers, in games, rules and life.

We do this through:

- School behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct
- Pupil Voice
- Religious Education curriculum
- PSHE curriculum
- Assemblies: SMSC, British Values, Votes for Schools
- Extended curriculum activities: trips, visitors and residential visits
- Celebration of different religious and cultural festivals: Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year
- Nurture groups
- E-Safety
- Charitable days

Social Development

We attempt to develop in our children a growing understanding of the part that they play within the school community and wider society, both now and in the future. Through their social development,

We encourage children to relate positively to others, participate fully in the community and develop an understanding of good citizenship. We will encourage children’s social development by:

- developing an understanding and respect of others, their opinions, beliefs and customs;
- developing an understanding of society’s institutions, structures and characteristics, including democracy and the rule of law.
- encouraging them to have a sense of pride in their community;
- nurturing the development of the inter-personal skills necessary for successful relationships.
- helping them to use restorative approaches with their peers increasingly independently;
- encouraging them to think about the impact of their own and others’ actions on others;
- developing good teamwork skills through opportunities to co-operate and share;
- expecting good manners and courteous behaviour;
- providing opportunities for children to develop self-confidence;
- providing opportunities for the development of interpersonal skills.

We do this through:

- Religious Education curriculum
- Assemblies and celebrations of values: SMSC, British Values.
- Votes for Schools
- PSHE curriculum
- Extended curriculum activities: trips, visitors and residential visits
- Celebration of different religious and cultural festivals: Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year
- Visiting places of worship
- Charitable days: Children in Need, Red Nose Day, NSPCC
- Playtime buddies
- Families invited into the school for events
- Links with local community
- Transition Work

- School behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct
- Pupil Voice
- Sport competitions

Cultural Development

Cultural development at The James Cambell Primary School is about children understanding and appreciating their own culture and other cultures in their community, Britain and throughout the world. It is an exploration of how we are the same and how we are different; how we came to be the way we are and how we are changing. Cultural development at our school is key to developing community cohesion and pride as well as curiosity and wonder at the world. Promoting pupils' cultural development is intimately linked with our schools' attempts to value cultural diversity and prevent racism. We will encourage children's cultural development by:

- helping children to understand and feel comfortable in a variety of cultures and be able to operate in the emerging world culture of shared experiences provided by television, travel and the internet;
- helping children to understand that cultures are always evolving and coping with change;
- providing pupils with the knowledge of and appreciation of the key features of their own cultural traditions and practices and of other major cultural groups within their own community and the wider world;
- developing an understanding of, as well as celebrating and embracing, the diversity of cultural, spiritual, social and moral traditions and practices within their community and the wider world;
- developing the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture in the form of music, art, drama, literature and faith;
- providing opportunities to nurture the cultural development of our children in all creative areas across the curriculum;
- encouraging a personal response to a range of cultural activities;
- exposing children to a wealth of stimuli from their own culture and those of others, taught through the whole curriculum with visits and visitors to support this teaching;
- encouraging participation in and appreciation of the wealth of cultural traditions and the beliefs associated with different communities.

We do this through:

- MFL curriculum
- Art curriculum
- Music curriculum
- Assemblies: SMSC, British Values
- Votes for Schools
- Extended curriculum activities: trips, visitors and residential visits
- Celebration of different religious and cultural festivals: Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year, Eid, Diwali.
- Charitable days
- Special events throughout the year
- School Productions & Performances
- Individual instrument lessons
- Educational visits
- RE curriculum
- After school clubs

4. Monitoring arrangements

Heads of department/subject leaders/curriculum leaders monitor the way their subject is taught throughout the school.

Heads of department/subject leaders/curriculum leaders also have responsibility for monitoring the way in which resources are stored and managed.

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the headteacher.