

St. John's Church of England Primary School

ST. JOHN'S C OF E



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for SMSC

Reviewed on September 2015

Next Review Date September 2017

At St John's C of E Primary school, the children and their learning are at the very heart of every decision made. We promise to provide a high quality caring, inclusive education built on sound Christian values.

At St. John's C of E Primary School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a hugely 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 and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned into lessons. A vast majority will also be planned and delivered through cross-curricular activities as well as discrete RE, PHSCE, Collective Worship and Circle Time activities.

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing (Christian) love and 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 will 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 will understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with St. John's C of E Primary School is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities and time to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment, and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- The school will foster a climate whereby all pupils can grow and flourish, respecting themselves and others. Spiritual Development

Planned opportunities for spiritual development across all areas can be seen across school. At St. John's C of E Primary 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.

Spiritual Development

We at St. John's C of E Primary School strive to support the children in the development of their spiritual life so that through reflection, they will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. Children's spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material well-being.

We believe that this begins with a personal, experience of the core Christian values rooted in the bible and we teach these through:

- Personal and community prayer
- A sense of God's presence permeating the life of the school
- A curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder
- The ability to listen and be still with quiet times of reflection
- Hearing His word spoken in the scriptures
- Encouraging quiet reflection during a assembly, reflecting on good things and what can be improved
- Allowing children time to reflect on their own behaviour and situations which are disturbing them
- Encourage consideration the mystery of God and the wonder of his world
- Promoting self image and developing positive self esteem, respect for themselves and finding an inner confidence and peace
- Having the opportunity to develop personal beliefs
- Giving the children the opportunity to pray and reflect
- Encouraging the children to know own strengths and acknowledge that can't do everything, but will be better at something
- To promote the ability to keep trying and seeking success

Moral Development

At St. John's C of E Primary School we believe that a morally aware pupil will develop a wide set of skills and ultimately they will know 'right from wrong', based on knowledge of moral codes of their own and other cultures. We aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Develop the ability to think through the consequences of their own and other's actions.
- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Have respect for others' needs, interests and feelings.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.

All classes at the start of the school year will discuss and create with their pupils a code of conduct / class rules for the classroom based on the values held by the school.

We teach the children to be aware of their actions, take responsibility for their own bodies and encourage independence. We will help the children to identify their feelings and reflect upon them so that they are expressed in a behaviour that is socially acceptable. Each class will have its own system of praise and we will endeavour to raise the self-esteem of all pupils and encourage the development of the 'whole' child.

Social Development

At St. John's C of E Primary School we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- To work successfully as part of a group or team.
- Develop an understanding of their individuality.
- Share views and opinions with others and resolve differences maturely and appropriately.
- Show respect for people, living things, property and the environment.
- Reflect on their own contribution to society and they can support other communities.
- Understand how societies function and are organised in such structures as the family and school.

- To allow pupils to engage in the democratic process, through school elections and the opportunities to exercise leadership and responsibilities.
- 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

At St. John's C of E Primary School children are made aware of the diversity of other cultures both within modern Britain and throughout the world. We aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influenced individuals and society.
- Recognise Christianity as a world-wide 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 the 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 will, where possible, seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Class discussions and circle time will give pupils 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 others needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.

- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally - e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are physically or mentally different.
- Agree and learn to disagree.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Links with the wider community

- Visitors are welcomed into school.
- We have an 'open-door' policy which encourages all stake-holders to
- Links with the Church are fostered through links with St. John's The Evangelist Parish Church
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the child.
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning.
- Pupil and parent voice through discussions and questionnaires.
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings .
- Sharing of classroom work and practice thought pastoral discussions in staff meetings