

Polehampton CE Infant and Junior Schools

SMSC and British Values Policy



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Introduction

At Polehampton Church of England Infant and Junior Schools, our vision is "Let your light shine" (Matthew 5:16). Jesus reminded us in Matthew’s gospel that we are lights for the world. As we seek to follow him, we can share his light with others and change the world. Supported by our school values of gratitude, friendship, perseverance, forgiveness, honesty and compassion, we seek to help pupils make positive choices in all they do. We follow our Christian values to enable everyone in our school community to let their light shine.

At Polehampton Church of England Infant and Junior Schools, having a clear policy for SMSC and British Values ensures that we can give pupils the understanding and knowledge to let their lights shine throughout their time at Polehampton and beyond.

It should be noted that all references to ‘parents’ should be read as ‘parents or carers’.

Aims

This policy details what spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is and how we develop the children in these areas through our school curriculum and wider-curriculum offer. This includes how our school promotes fundamental British Values.

Intent

Guided by our Christian vision and values, we are committed to providing an environment that achieves the following:

- Enables children to learn and develop to their full potential.
- Ensures respect, forgiveness, empathy for others and acceptance of differences.
- Encourages independence, resilience, cooperation and collaborative working.
- Ensures pupils develop self-discipline and take responsibility for their actions.

In order to facilitate and achieve this, we will provide a curriculum that meets the following:

- Engages, excites, is meaningful and rigorous.

“Let your light shine” Matthew 5:16

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- Stimulates questions and challenges.
- Is aspirational, creative, flexible and responsive.
- Prioritises spiritual, moral, social, cultural intellectual and physical development.
- Educates our children for today and beyond.

We recognise the importance of both the academic and personal development and wellbeing of every child and staff member in our school. This includes recognising the importance of providing a range of opportunities for our pupils and staff to respond to, that supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development with an understanding and an overview of teaching the Equalities Act (2010) and including global education themes.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC)

Spiritual development is concerned with developing the non-material aspects of life, focusing on personal insight, values, meaning and purpose. Beliefs that help provide perspective on life may be rooted in a religion, but equally may not. Children explore the fundamental British Value of exploring and respecting the values and beliefs of others.

The Spiritual development of all our children is addressed through the Christian vision and values of the school. As a church school we address spiritual development through prayer, Christian worship, celebration of Christian festivals and learning about those of other faiths, reading and reflection on the Bible within Collective Worship, RE and across the wider curriculum.

We are committed to the following:

- 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 and building spiritual capacities to promote self-worth.
- Self-esteem and valuing others.
- Helping our pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on "big questions".
- Developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a lifelong love of learning.

Moral development is knowing what is right and wrong and acting on it accordingly. Moral development is about personal and societal values, understanding the reasons for them and airing and understanding disagreements. Children develop the fundamental British Value of investigating moral values and ethical issues, and recognising and applying right and wrong.

We are committed to encouraging pupils to achieve the following:

- Be truthful and honest.
- Respect the rights and property of others, their opinions and customs, even when they are different from our own.
- Help others.
- Solve differences of opinion in non-violent ways using the principles of restorative practice.

Social development shows pupils working together effectively, relating well to adults and participating in the local community. It also includes the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

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- Fostering the skill 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.
- Teaching the Equalities Act (2010) throughout our curriculum.

Cultural development shows pupils' understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and experiencing a range of cultural activities (art, theatre, travel, concerts). Children develop the fundamental British Value of exploring, understanding and tolerance regarding the diversity of cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the world by achieving the following:

- Promoting an appreciation of our own cultural tradition/s and encouraging an appreciation of other peoples' cultural traditions.
- Celebrating the richness of culture and traditions of various faiths and cultures.
- Weaving global education themes through our curriculum.

Teaching and learning of SMSC

In the 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 in the following ways:

- Recognising the importance of our Collective Worship programme in supporting and encouraging SMSC development, including teaching the Equalities Act (2010) and aspects of global education.
- Planning and provision for introducing and teaching aspects of SMSC through Collective Worship using a range of resources, from the Diocese.
- Providing a detailed long-term plan covering all aspects of SMSC (within our PSHCE curriculum) and detailing the curriculum intent for these and related areas, particularly Relationships, Health and Sex education. This plan is under constant review so that we can take into account our rapidly changing world and learning opportunities which arise under this heading.
- Providing an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning resources and strategies as above that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern.
- Encouraging teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to enhance SMSC development and to ensure curriculum leaders have evidence of provision for SMSC education in their subject maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution.
- Reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school.

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