

**ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
(SMSC) AND BRITISH VALUES
STATEMENT OF PRACTICE**



AIMS

At St Mary's CE Primary School, our vision is to provide a happy, nurturing and stimulating environment where children will recognise and achieve their fullest potential so that they are well equipped to meet the challenges of education, work and life. Our school is a place of Christian values where children learn positive character attributes. Our pupils become confident motivated life-long learners through a holistic, outdoor environment and technology are used to maximise opportunities and provide a context for learning where children are encouraged to take risks and develop enquiring, investigative minds. Our children, parents, staff, Governors and the widening community make a contribution and are valued as individuals. St Mary's pupils treat others as they would like to be treated, show respect, are responsible, accountable, fair, honest and courageous, have empathy, persevere, show initiative and optimism and act with integrity.

We aim to develop learners who are passionate, take ownership of their learning and are proud of their achievements. The ethos of our school is such that all people who come into our school, whether staff, pupil, parent or visitor, are valued as individuals in their own right. They should set, and be entitled to expect from others, good standards of behaviour, marked by respect and responsibility. We want our pupils to be honest with themselves and with others.

BRITISH VALUES AT ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

The DFE Document says pupils should be taught '*how democracy and the law work in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries*', and advises teachers to '*consider the role of extracurricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values*'. At St Mary's CE Primary School we uphold and teach pupils about British Values which are defined as:

- Democracy;
- Rule of Law;
- Individual Liberty;
- Mutual Respect and
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

These values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE), and Religious Education (RE). We also teach British Values through planning and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. The school takes opportunities to actively promote British Values through whole school assemblies and whole school systems and structures such as electing and running a successful School Council. We also actively promote British values through ensuring that our curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

S.M.S.C DEFINITIONS

Spiritual development is shown by pupils':

- Beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values;
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible;

- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning;
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences.

Moral development is shown by pupils’:

- Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, and their readiness to apply this understanding in their own lives;
- Understanding of the consequences of their actions;
- Interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues.

Social development is shown by pupils’:

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio- economic backgrounds;
- Willingness to participate in a variety of social settings, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively;
- Interest in, and understanding of, the way communities and societies function at a variety of levels.

Cultural development is shown by pupils’:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage;
- Interest in exploring, understanding of, and respect for cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

PLANNING

In planning lessons, teachers are aware of the need to plan opportunities to develop a wide variety of spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs. A vast majority will be delivered through cross curricular activities as well as specific PSHE, RE, Character Matters and Circle Time activities.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Planned opportunities for spiritual development in all subjects can be seen across the school. Children are given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of spiritual experiences.

Examples of experiences commonly regarded as spiritual include:

- Curiosity and mystery;
- Awe and wonder;
- Connection and belonging;
- Heightened self-awareness;
- Deep feelings of what is felt to be ultimately important;
- A sense of security, well-being, worth and purposefulness.

The school will develop a climate or ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected; accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals.

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

At St Mary’s CE Primary School we believe that morally aware pupils will develop a wide range of skills. These can include the following:

- Distinguish right from wrong, based on knowledge of the moral codes of their own and other Cultures;
- Develop an ability to think through the consequences of their own and others’ actions;
- Have an ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements;
- Ensure a commitment to personal values;
- Have respect for others’ needs, interests and feelings, as well as their own;
- Develop a desire to explore their own and others’ views, and an understanding of the need to review and re-assess their values, codes and principles in the light of experience.

We will strive to encourage pupils to take responsibility for their actions, for example, respect for property, care of the environment, and developing codes of behaviour, providing models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts and assemblies; reinforcing the school's values through images, posters, classroom displays, etc. and monitoring in simple ways, the success of what is provided. Teachers always discuss with their classes rules for the classroom based on the values held by the school. We teach the children to be aware of their own actions, take responsibility for their own bodies and encourage independence. We will help the children to identify their feelings and think these through so that they are expressed in behaviour that is socially acceptable.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

At St Mary's CE Primary School we recognise that pupils who are becoming socially aware are likely to be developing the ability to:

- Adjust to a range of social contexts by appropriate and sensitive behaviour;
- Relate well to other people's social skills and personal qualities;
- Work successfully, as a member of a group or team;
- Share views and opinions with others;
- Resolve conflicts maturely and appropriately;
- Reflect on their own contribution to society;
- Show respect for people, living things, property and the environment;
- Exercise responsibility.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Children should be made aware of the diversity of other cultures both within modern Britain and throughout the world. This is done through music, PE, Art and many other curriculum areas. Pupils who are becoming culturally aware are likely to be developing some or all of the following characteristics:

- An ability to reflect on important questions of meaning and identity;
- An interest in exploring the relationship between human beings and the environment.

Our school develops pupils' cultural development by:

- Extending pupils' knowledge and use of cultural imagery and language;
- Encouraging them to think about special events in life and how they are celebrated;
- Recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents; providing opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, drama, music, art, crafts and other cultural events and encouraging pupils to reflect on their significance.

PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

DEMOCRACY

Each year the children decide upon their class rules. All the children contribute to the drawing up of the rules. We have a school council which meets regularly with the School Council Lead to discuss issues raised in council meetings. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class. Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with concern to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinions and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of their own learning and progress through the use of assertive mentoring. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

Parents' opinions are welcomed at St Mary's CE Primary School through methods such as questionnaires, parents' evenings, working groups and opportunities to comment on monthly newsletters.

THE RULE OF LAW

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at St Mary's CE Primary School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules of the school and how to follow the High Expectations Policy and Behaviour Policy. If the rules are broken a child will fill out a 'Behaviour Reflection Log' which asks the children what they have done, why it was wrong and what they should do in the future. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

At St Mary's CE Primary School, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons. They also understand that with rights come responsibilities.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Mutual respect is at the heart of our values. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect. Every year children take part in pupil voice based on Behaviour and Safety and within this they answer questions around behaviour and respect for their peers.

TOLERANCE OF THOSE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS

St Mary's CE Primary School serves an area which is culturally diverse and we are proud to promote and celebrate our different backgrounds and beliefs. Tolerance, politeness and mutual respect are at the heart of our aims and ethos. At St Mary's CE Primary School, we actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons and PSHE lessons reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. As a school we work closely with families from different faiths in order to ensure that all children are included.