CHRIST CHURCH C.E. FIRST SCHOOL

-Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy-

Headteacher: Mrs A Graham

Chair of Governors: Mr M Bird

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Christ Church C.E. First School
Northesk Street, Stone
Staffordshire, ST15 8EP
Tel: 01785 336545
Company registration Number: 07702211
Email: office@christchurch-stone.staffs.sch.uk
Website: http://www.christchurch-stone.staffs.sch.uk

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Introduction

At Christ Church First School, we understand our statutory duty to encourage pupils' SMSC development. We 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.

Values and Ethos
At Christ Church First School, we seek to create an understanding, tolerant, caring and compassionate community, in which children can develop relationship skills, emotional literacy, health and wellbeing. Through the three simple school rules, our aim is to become a 'Rights Respecting School'.

Christ Church First School promotes six main Christian values, which are evident in our ethos, expectations, policy and our daily interactions and practice. These are:

- Hope
- Love
- Forgiveness
- Friendship
- Perseverance
- Generosity

At Christ Church First School, we recognise the importance of specifically teaching SMSC education to our children and it therefore features in every curriculum area.

Spiritual Development
As a church school, we understand that the development of an individual's personal spirituality is a journey or a quest which seeks to know, develop and understand one's inner self and this is supported throughout the school through, worship, RE and the wider school curriculum.

Spiritual development is demonstrated by:

- pupils' ability to reflect on their own beliefs and how these shape their views of the world as well as their interest in and respect for different people's faith, values and feelings
- their curiosity and desire to learn about themselves, others and the world around them
- promoting learning opportunities which value children's questions, encourage deeper questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns
- developing a climate or ethos within which all children can grow and flourish, enjoying individual liberty and mutual respect
- their creativity and use of imagination in their learning
- the way in which pupils reflect on their experiences
- how they express their understanding of the school's Christian Values

Moral Development

At Christ Church, we strive to enable pupils to build a framework of moral values which helps pupils to regulate their behaviour. We help them to understand the expectations of values that are shared and agreed in society, which include democracy, justice and the rule of law and also 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.

Moral Development is demonstrated by:

- pupils' understanding and recognition of what is right and wrong and using this knowledge in their own lives and by doing so, respecting civil and criminal law in England
- their understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- showing that they value and understand other people's views on moral and ethical issues
- 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

Social Development

At Christ Church, 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.

Social development in demonstrated by:

- pupils' ability to use a range of social skills to engage with others in different contexts
- their ability to work and play with pupils from different backgrounds, whether that be religious, ethnic or socio-economic
- their willingness to help and support other members of the school community
- pupils' ability to disagree nicely and resolve conflicts calmly and amicably
- 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
- pupils' acceptance that everyone is different and that some people have additional needs and that some disabilities may not be visible
- engagement with the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of people with different faiths and beliefs
- displaying attributes that will enable them to contribute fully to life in modern Britain
- participating in a range of important national and religious celebrations

Cultural Development

Cultural development at Christ Church 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 inextricably linked with our schools' attempts to value cultural diversity and prevent racism.

Cultural development is demonstrated 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
- pupils' understanding and appreciation that our heritage has been shaped by a wide range of cultural influences
- 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;
- their appreciation of the diversity of cultures within our school, our local community and further afield as an essential part of preparation for life in modern Britain
- pupils' understanding of how Britain is governed and how this has shaped our history, our values and how it shapes our country today
- 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
- developing and showing interest in and respect for different faiths and cultural diversity.
- Pupils' understanding, acceptance, celebration and respect for diversity through tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups