



Grove Vale Primary School

SMSC Policy

Approved by:

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Introduction

At Grove Vale Primary School we firmly believe in an education and curriculum that ensures that our pupils receive a comprehensive SMSC experience. We recognise that the development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part not only in their ability to learn and achieve but in their ability to relate fully to and have the ability to access the world they live in. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides children with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and wider British values, whilst recognising that those of others may differ. Beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour including 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 are all critical skills and dispositions that we nurture, encourage and develop through our teaching and the wider curriculum. Children should learn to differentiate between right and wrong and understand how their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others. Children should understand their rights and accept their responsibilities and the need to respect the rights of others. Our curriculum is driven by characteristics the children need to survive in the outside world, resilience, ambition, curiosity and creativity and these characteristics are at the heart of everything we do.

Spiritual Development

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.

All curriculum areas plan and provide opportunities 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.
- Encourage reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs (religious or otherwise), feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Understand and have respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values.
- Use imagination and creativity in their learning

We do this through

- Our RE curriculum (SACRE).
- Religious visits.
- Special assemblies to celebrate events such as Eid, Diwali, Christmas and Easter.



- People and communities (EYFS)
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Visitors

Moral Development

Moral development is largely about choices, behaviour and how you live your life. It's also 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.

All curriculum areas plan and provide opportunities to...

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Understand the consequences of their behaviours and actions.
- Understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgments.
- Social Development
- Develop an understanding of their individual and identity.
- Helping others in the school and wider community.

We do this through

- PSHE
- Picture news
- Behaviour policy
- DECCA
- Debate days
- Pupil of the term
- Helping others in school and in the community.
- Commando Joe programme

Social Development

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.

All curriculum areas plan and provide opportunities to...

- Use a range of social skills in different contexts.
- Willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings.
- Working well with others.
- Being able to resolve conflicts effectively.
- Acceptance and engagement of the fundamental British Values.
- Develop skills which will allow them to participate and communicate positively to life in Britain.

We do this through

- Picture news.
- Community visits.
- Buddy/play leader systems.
- Working with other schools, primary and secondary.
 - School council
 - Eco- committee

Cultural Development

Cultural development is about understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and experiencing a range of cultural activities (for example 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.

All curriculum areas plan and provide opportunities to...

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain.
- Develop an understanding of the UK's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.
- Understanding and appreciate the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their heritage.
- Understanding and appreciation of a range of different cultures.
- Recognise and value the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities.
- Opportunities to participate in a range of artistic, musical, sporting and cultural experiences.
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity.

We do this through



- RE curriculum (SACRE)
- Religious visits.
- Music lessons.
- Music concerts.
- Time zone.
- Artists coming in to school to work with children.
- Embedding the work of UNICEF.

British Values

Our government believes that, 'British society is founded on fundamental values and principles, which all those living in the UK should respect and support. These values are reflected in the responsibilities, rights and privileges of being a British citizen or permanent resident of the UK. They are based on history and traditions and are protected by law, customs and expectations. There is no place in British society for extremism or intolerance.' The values we support are not unique to Britain and are shared by many people in the world represented by the diverse families at Grove Vale. We support the values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs and these are embedded within our curriculum. These values are found in our own school values ambition, resilience, curiosity and creativity. Our school rules also support these British Values. We plan assemblies and lessons, particularly in RE and PSHE and deliver picture news weekly, to teach the children about values, respecting similarities and differences, tackling stereotypes and understanding why some people discriminate. We aim to empower children to have a voice and to stand up against discrimination, valuing equality, tolerance and mutual respect. The topics and lessons in the school's curriculum are designed carefully and planned by teachers to provide a rich learning experience that will have a positive impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Whilst focusing on all children developing good skills in curriculum based subjects, we also ensure they experience extra-curricular clubs such as music, a variety of sports, the arts and outdoor learning. Visits are planned linking with the class topic to provide children with further understanding of the world they live in and each year group takes part in a religious visit so by the end of the children's time at Grove Vale they will have visited a range of places of worship. As well as promoting British values we would actively challenge pupils, staff or parents expressing opinions contrary to fundamental British values, including 'extremist' views and principles. All staff have received Prevent training.

Being part of Britain as a school, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at Grove Vale. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions and customs in the course of the year; for example, Diwali, Eid, Christmas and Easter. We also value and commemorate national events such as Remembrance Day.



Democracy

Democracy is embedded in the school. Pupils are 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 not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils. The democratically elected School Council provides a more formal platform for class representatives to raise issues and suggest fundraising ideas. Children often take part in pupil conferencing. Key stage two children also act as buddies and lunchtime monitors, helping younger children. Parents' opinions are welcomed at Grove Vale through methods such as questionnaires, feedback at parents' evenings and liaison with the parents association.

The rule of law

On the first day of each academic year, the children sign to agree to Grove Vale's school rules, empowering the children to understand the importance of rules. The importance of law, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced throughout regular school days; when dealing with behaviour, through school assemblies and during picture news. In order to help children understand how society cannot operate without a set of laws, we teach them how our school rules create an ordered, fair and safe place in which to learn. The class rules are signed by the children and are displayed in classrooms. We help children to distinguish right from wrong and adopt restorative justice approaches to resolve conflicts. The school has a clearly structured behaviour policy which all staff understand and follow. Visits from the Sandwell DECCA team to talk to the children encourage pupils to understand that the law protects us and is essential for our well-being and safety.

Individual liberty

Our children have the opportunity to make individual choices and express opinions that develop their character and self-belief. However, they are encouraged to develop these qualities in the context of the rights and needs of other members of our school community. We model freedom of speech through pupil participation in class in the context of a safe, fair, supportive and ordered learning environment. We discuss and challenge stereotypes and implement a strong anti-bullying culture. Pupils have key roles and responsibilities in school e.g. school council, health ambassadors, safeguarding team; playground buddies etc. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons. Whether it is through choice of challenge, choose their lunch options, of participation in extracurricular clubs and opportunities, pupil conferencing etc., pupils are given the freedom to make choices.



Mutual respect

Respect is one of Grove Vale's core values. Children are encouraged to respect themselves and to respect individual differences. This is a fundamental principle that is put into practice in the classroom, around school, in the playground and in assemblies. We are lucky to have a diverse school community encompassing different languages, backgrounds and faiths. We help our children to acquire an understanding of, and respect for their own and other cultures and ways of life. We celebrate the festivals celebrated by some of our families, visit different places of worship and welcome visitors who can widen our children's horizons even further. Our RE lessons encourage regular discussions and debate, this encourages our pupils to respect the views and beliefs of others. We follow Sandwell's RE SACRE curriculum, which provides a broad and balanced education on a range of faiths, religions and cultures

