



Guyhirn Church of England Primary School & Pre-School

Member of the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust

This policy was ratified in:	February 2016
Reviewed:	March 2019, 2021, 2024
To be reviewed:	June 2026

Policy on Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education

Our Vision

Agape – To live, to learn, to love together

Through our Christian values we aim to inspire all of our school community to show equality and tolerance to all in a safe, challenging environment.

Developing resilient, aspirational and compassionate individuals who are enthused by all faiths and lifestyles showing faith and belief in one another.

“Live in agreement with one another. Do not be proud but ready to mix with everyone. Do not think yourself better than others.” - Romans 12:16

“An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks it out.” - Proverbs 18:15

“Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbour as yourselves.” - Matthew 22:37

Our Values

We are a small, family centered Church of England Primary School that is committed to promoting our Christian values of Thankfulness, Compassion, Creativity, Peace, Hope, Endurance, Forgiveness, Tolerance, Kindness, Respect, Trust and Friendship each linked with the core value of Love.

We are determined to create an inclusive culture of learning where everyone will be challenged in their thinking, to succeed to the best of their abilities and strive to become lifelong learners.

We will empower our children to become respected citizens to enable them to make valuable contributions locally, globally and to contribute to our world's sustainable future.

At Guyhirn Primary School & Pre-School our children develop as self-confident, independent thinkers and have a genuine voice within the school through their democratically elected school council. We have a broad and balanced school curriculum underpinned by spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding and values. Our Christian values are firmly embedded in the daily life of our school. We prepare children in school for life in modern Britain by developing an age related, appropriate awareness of the four fundamental British Values of: Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty and Mutual Respect and Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We work closely with other schools within our geographical cluster and other schools who share our Christian ethos.

We firmly believe in our vision that this is: Agape, To live, to learn, to love together.

What is Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education?

SMSCE is about developing the whole child through:

- Spiritual
- Moral
- Social and
- Cultural activities

in an environment which enables all children to grow and flourish, become confident individuals and appreciate their own worth and that of others.

The Staff and Governors of Guyhirn Church of England Primary School aim to promote the children's spiritual development through this policy.

What is spiritual development?

Spirituality is our exploration of our experiences and the culture in which we have grown up. It refers to how we construct our sense of identity and place in the world.

It refers to how we understand things which are beyond immediate experience, and how we recognise and respond to them.

It refers to how we work out our own ideas about events and traumas for which there may be no apparent 'answer' or 'solution'. Reflection and discussion can develop a range of appropriate responses in the child.

We are all developing through life along a spiritual path and how we develop spiritually is about our response to life shaping events, considering our understanding of both ourselves and the 'tradition' in which we have grown up.

It is the school's role to develop within children such qualities as a sense of self-worth, respect, security etc. It is also our role to develop a spiritual understanding that is appropriate to the child's development.

The **Spiritual** development of our pupils is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- ability to develop and apply an understanding of right and wrong in their school life and life outside school
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences
- ability to gain a well-informed understanding of the options and challenges facing them as they move through the school and on to the next stage of their education and training

This can be seen in our school through:

- RE lessons
- Acts of daily Collective Worship
- By facilitating regular opportunities for the children experience the "wow factor" or "spine tingling" moments
- Windows, Mirrors, Doors
- Celebration assemblies
- Religious Celebrations

The **Moral** development of our pupils is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

This can be seen in our school through:

- The PSHE Curriculum
- Sustainability
- Fair trade issues
- Equalities, identities and diversity
- Discussions/debates around moral and ethical issues
- Emotional Support Programmes
- School behaviour policy (responsibility for own actions)

- An understanding of the moral teaching of the Bible and other religions
- The moral aspects of the school ethos

The **Social** development of our pupils is shown by their:

- 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 communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

This can be seen in our school through:

- Collaborative tasks (including team building activities)
- Opportunities to vote
- Peer coaching
- School Parliament
- Playground Leaders
- After school activities
- Community events (locally, nationally)
- School and community partnerships
- School trips
- Celebrating differences
- Trust events

The **Cultural** development of our pupils is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

This can be seen in our school through:

- Links with local schools, churches, groups, businesses, charities, faiths etc
- British Value Week
- Participation in cultural events
- School visits
- National and International events and celebrations
- Current affairs issues via Newsround
- Enterprise activities
- School productions and acts of worship
- Visitors to school

The role of a Church School

As a church school we will ensure that we offer pupils the opportunity to:

- reflect on the importance of a system of personal belief;
- recognise the place a Christian faith has in the lives of people;
- develop a sense of wonder, curiosity and mystery;
- be creative and questioning within a broad Christian framework which recognises respect for the beliefs of others;
- make the link with a real worshipping community, the church is always about people and their faith journeys;
- sample the rich heritage of Christian experience through the Bible, both Old and New Testaments and the witness of Christians down the ages;
- Learn about other faiths and cultural diversity;

See also policies for Collective Worship and Religious Education.

This policy was reviewed & updated in June 2024 and will be reviewed every 2 years