

Newchurch St Mary's CE Primary Academy



Learning through Faith

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Introduction

This policy is based on the vision of the school. The policy statement provides an overview of provision in the school for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our school sets out to provide for these areas of development but we expect many unplanned opportunities to occur and encourage staff to 'seize the moment' when appropriate. Such moments may have profound effects on individuals.

Principles and Context:

A concern for the Whole Child

Education is not only about academic achievement, though it is important to enable each child to attain the highest academic standards possible. Nor is the success of the school to be measured just by good position in annual league tables of national test results. Education is about developing children who are understanding and caring individuals who are on the way to becoming fully alive. It is about:

- developing children who know that they are spiritual beings as well as creatures of the earth, who begin to reflect something of the image of God in which they are made;
- giving children the sense that God values them as His children; that they are loved and have been created on purpose by God;
- pointing children to the triumph of the Cross and to that denial of self out of which comes Resurrection and the attainment of eternal life;
- enabling children to love their neighbours as themselves.

It is in the context of this wider canvas and of the Christian values expressed in its Mission Statement, rather than for limited objectives such as preparing children for the world of work, that a Church school devises its policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. However, SMSC links to all five outcomes of Every Child Matters – Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Making a Contribution and Economic Well-Being.

It is insufficient for children simply to conform to an imposed set of Christian standards. The school therefore aims to provide opportunities for pupils through the curriculum and school life to:

- develop an understanding of right and wrong
- develop an understanding of the need for shared values and accepted rules of conduct in school and community;
- develop self-discipline and a loving concern for others;
- understand links between behaviour and beliefs, including the teachings of the Gospel
- Stand up for and put into practice our Christian values despite external pressures

In order to achieve this, children need to develop the following habits and skills:

- appreciate the feelings and concerns of others;
- develop and sustain relationships;
- reflect on questions of right and wrong and on their own values;
- discuss their own beliefs and feelings;
- listen with respect to the views and opinions of others;
- discuss and debate issues rationally and sensitively;
- exercise care and responsibility for others.

The exploration of moral issues, of questions of right and wrong, and of Christian teaching on appropriate ways in which to live, will be fostered within the programme of collective worship and R.E. and through various curriculum subjects, including English, Drama, History, Science, Technology, P.E. and PSHE. The school offers guidance to teachers on Christian approaches to teaching controversial or sensitive issues (eg. 'Sex education & Relationships')

The school seeks to recognise and affirm good conduct, commitment and service to others through its reward system, through records of achievement, and through celebration and thanks in the context of collective worship.

Social Development

Because Christians believe that we are 'all one in Christ' and members of God's family in the Church and accept Christ's commandment to 'love our neighbours as ourselves', the school sets out to foster the commitment and ability to live and work with others, to share resources and to show concern and responsibility for others in the school and wider community. Classroom management will seek to promote group co-operation and mutual responsibility. Children will be pointed to the value and importance of working, playing and praying together.

The school seeks to avoid a predominance of groupings based on a single sex or interest, or social or ethnic background. It sets out to offer a wide range of educational, social, sporting and extra-curricular activities to all its members. In sport, there will be a balance of individual and team activities, both competitive and non-competitive. Responsible leadership roles will be encouraged in a range

of activities, including the appointment of Year 6 prefects and play leaders. Children are encouraged to develop strong community cohesion and learn about environmental issues and events e.g. through Picture News Webinars and newsround.

The school aims to develop social skills and insights through the full range of activities in school involving children and adults, and by creating situations where pupils have to relate to visitors to the school and do so with increasing politeness, tact and confidence.

Children will be encouraged to participate in, and contribute to, the life of the Church and community through involvement in church worship and service to the needy eg. the donation of cans collected at harvest for various centres.

The school's programme of fund-raising, the way funds are raised and the Christian, charitable and other causes chosen will contribute to developing the habit of care and support for those in need. Pupils will be given the opportunity to choose charities the school should support, and to take an active part in planning and carrying out fund-raising eg. collections for Children-in-Need and Remembrance etc.

Social achievement and service to church or community will be recognised and celebrated as described in the previous section.

Cultural Development

The school aims to broaden children's horizons by introducing them to a range of cultural activities and experiences, by building up an appreciation of their own cultural heritage and traditions, and introducing them to examples of the variety of human cultures, beliefs and ways of life. At the same time the school will seek to emphasise and express its Christian foundations, values, beliefs and way of life.

	Be Healthy	Stay Safe	Enjoy & Achieve	Economic Well being	Making a Contribution
Spiritual	Self worth		Awe, wonder & joy	Making Choices	Develop respect for others
Moral	Develop & Sustain relationships Make healthy life style choices Sex education	Accept rules of conduct Understand right & wrong Self discipline Develop relationships with others Care & responsibility for others	Moral issues in all aspects of the curriculum, Including Drama		Develop a moral stance based on justice etc. Shared values Self discipline Listen with respect to others 'Stand up' for beliefs Develop respect for others

Social	Sport	Road Safety	Church	Live & work	Team
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		Concern for others- refrain from intimidating behaviour	Worship visits	together Share resources Multicultural visits Team games Team building skills Charity fund raising Care for environment	House captains Rotakids Care for environment Charity fund raising Develop respect for others
Cultural	Sport	Follow rules in sport	Music, Art, History, RE, Sport Educational visits	Literate & Numerate Multicultural visits Mutual respect	Respect for others way of life

**Reviewed by the Governing Body, February 2025.
To be reviewed February 2027**