

St Peter's R.C. Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy



Policy	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy
Date	September 2020
Date of review	September 2022
Signed Chair of Governors	<i>Eugene McCarthy</i>
Signed Headteacher	<i>Clare Scott</i>

We, the family of St Peter's, united in faith by God strive to learn and grow together to be the best we possibly can every day.

Our Mission statement

The mission of St Peter's Catholic Primary School is to provide an education which is central to the teachings of Jesus Christ. This will be evident in the quality of the way we welcome, love, learn and grow together with Jesus. At St Peter's we will strive to do this through the justice, respect, equality and forgiveness which we extend to all who are part of school life.

SMSC plays a fundamental part in our ability to learn and to achieve this. SMSC focuses on the development of the whole child and is embedded into all lessons and is promoted throughout the school day.

Rationale

SMSC stands for Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. During an Ofsted inspection the *'effectiveness and impact of the provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development* will be evaluated.

In St Peter's **spirituality** is concerned with raising and developing an awareness in each other, of a sense of God and the way God acts in our world and in our lives. The development of spirituality is meaningless if it does not have a direct effect upon our lives. Children need to be supported to look at their fears and failings as well as the courage to acknowledge their anger and disaffection as well as to celebrate a community of peace. Spiritual development is not about becoming holy or perfect. It is more about being connected to, and able to, experience the love of God. When Jesus taught us to pray he recognised this:

'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

In St Peter's **moral development** is concerned with the ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to be able to apply this understanding in our own lives. Also, as children develop morally their understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions grows and they start to reflect on this, taking responsibility for their own conduct.

Helping children to make moral decisions is an integral part of the formation of a moral conscience.

In St Peter's **social development** is concerned with leading children to understand that we are made not only for ourselves but to live with, in and through community. Only in community are we able to live out Gospel values. We believe that good relationships which are based on mutual respect and love are key to a harmonious environment where all can work together towards the common good. We further believe that what is learned in our school community will enable our children to understand the wider community and help them understand *'what it means to be British.'*

In St Peter's **cultural development** is concerned with understanding and appreciating the wide range of cultural influences and traditions that are represented in our school, its immediate environment, Britain and the world. We believe that it is important that all at St Peter's have an understanding and respect for cultural diversity and that this is evident in their attitudes towards religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Aims of SMSC

At St Peter's we aim to:

- Ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our core values and that these are embedded into all we do.
- Ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues throughout the curriculum and general life of the school.
- Ensure that children know what is expected of them and why.
- Provide the opportunity for every child to achieve their true potential through the experiences that they receive and the knowledge they acquire.
- Provide a wide range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experiences.
- Enable children to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.

How will St Peter's School promote and implement SMSC in school?

- By ensuring the school and classroom environment is stimulating and well ordered to promote positive learning and encourage personal development and responsibility.
- Through the teachings of the Roman Catholic faith that shows that God is truly concerned about and loves every single person.
- By the implementation of the R.E Policy, leading children to an awareness of and understanding of spiritual values, regardless of race, sex, status or religion.
- Through the consistent implementation of our School behaviour policy where positive values, qualities and attitudes are encouraged.
- By providing opportunities for teamwork and co-operative projects and developing a sense of social responsibility by supporting charitable ventures.

Practical activities to develop SMSC include:

- Working together in different groupings and situations including circle time.
- Encouraging children to be polite and have manners.
- To know and implement our school's core values of compassion, respect, cooperation, perseverance and inspiration.

- Taking responsibility e.g. class monitors, peer mediators, Buddies etc.
- Encouraging teamwork in PE lessons, clubs and break times.
- Have opportunities to meet people from different cultures and learn about other countries through music, dance, food, the arts, etc.
- Having appreciation and respect for the work and performance of other children regardless of ability.
- The use of assembly themes to promote and explore important aspects of our heritage and culture and actively encourage children's participation in these.
- Teach Cornerstones topics which promote SMSC awareness in school.
- By planning and implementing a Cultural Week once a year.
- Having an effective School and Eco Council.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to share their views and develop their capacity to be critical thinkers.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Provision of SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

This achieved by:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny.
- Regular discussions and updates at staff and governors meetings.
- Regular discussions at parent's working party sessions.
- Sharing of classroom work and practise.
- SMSC next steps being part of the School Development Plan.