



Policy for Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development (SMSC)

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development

AIM

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of The Acorns School, valuing all children equally and as individuals, enabling them to learn to achieve and providing them with essential transferable skills. By doing this alongside quality teaching of academic subjects in the context of an individualised curriculum, the aim is to provide the building blocks to allow every student to become a well-rounded individual.

INTRODUCTION

This policy relates to the whole life of the school. Particular importance is placed on promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). The SMSC aspects of education concentrate on the development of the pupil as an individual, aiming to enrich their academic experiences with a focus on the development of the values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviour which will allow them to become a valued member of society.

At The Acorns School the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted throughout the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school and collective assemblies and whole school events as well as designated PHSE lessons and wellbeing sessions.

This policy has been updated to reflect guidance given by The Department for Education (27 November 2014) on promoting British values in schools to ensure young people leave school prepared for life in modern Britain:

“The guidance aims to help both independent and state-maintained schools understand their responsibilities in this area. All have a duty to ‘actively promote’ the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These values were first set out by the government in the ‘Prevent’ strategy in 2011.”

Mr P Finnegan

DEFINITIONS

1. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT: Understanding of self and others is at the heart of spiritual development and is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith. Spiritual development is, therefore, accessible to everyone.

2. MORAL DEVELOPMENT: Regulating personal behaviour by building a framework of moral values to develop pupils understanding of societies shared and agreed values.

Moral development is therefore about developing pupils' skills and attitudes, such as decision-making, self-control, consideration of others, having the confidence to act in accordance with one's principles and where possible thinking through the consequences of action.

3. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Developing the abilities and skills that pupils need to acquire if they are to play a full and active part in society. It also relates to the growth of knowledge and understanding of belonging to a group and a wider community. Pupils learn to lead, to use their initiative and to use individual skills and strengths when working together.

4. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Understanding and developing the knowledge of differing cultural beliefs, customs and traditions.

In this way pupils gain a deeper understanding of their own culture and the factors which influence it and gain a broader understanding of other cultures and cultural influences. All areas of the curriculum can be used to promote and develop cultural awareness alongside one-off events.

PROVISION AT THE ACORNS FOR KS3 and KS4: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- to develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert;
- to develop the skill of being mentally still, concentrating on the present; moment
- to develop the ability to use all senses;
- to promote an awareness of and enjoyment in using imagination;
- to encourage quiet reflection;
- to develop individual self-confidence in expressing inner thoughts in a variety of ways;
- to develop confidence and peace.

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- to respect the rights and property of others;
- to help those less fortunate than ourselves;
- to act considerately towards others;
- to develop a greater awareness of others;
- to take responsibility for own actions;

- to develop positive attitudes;
- to conform to rules and regulations for the good of all.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- to share a range of emotions;
- to show sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others;
- to work as part of a group;
- to interact positively with others through contacts outside school, eg. sporting activities, visits.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- to develop an awareness and recognition of music, art, drama, and storytelling;
- to develop a love of learning;
- to develop an understanding of British cultural tradition and values;
- to appreciate the values and customs of other ethnic and faith groups which make up the modern world.

SUMMARY OF PROVISION FOR SMSC AT THE ACORNS SCHOOL

Within the curriculum, pupils are able to

- Explore and reflect upon the world around them;
- Share views and ideas;
- Improve relationships;
- Work together collaboratively;
- Listen to each other;
- Follow rules;
- Develop responsibility for their behaviour and actions;
- Learn about their school and the wider community;
- Develop an understanding of competition and fair play;
- Visit museums and galleries and other sites of cultural interest;
- Be part of workshops;
- Celebrating religious and cultural festivals such as Diwali and Chinese New Year;
- Learn about, share and express emotions together.

At The Acorns School we deliver a broad and enriching SMSC curriculum through a range of activities including:

- Whole school themed talks and assemblies;
- School Council;
- Pupil voice opportunities;
- Horticulture projects;
- Enrichment days such as outdoor pursuits;
- Achievement assemblies;
- Reward days;
- Specific curriculum themed weeks;
- Wellbeing sessions to support pupils;
- Celebration/commemoration of National and International days such as St. Patrick's Day and National Holocaust Day;
- Parental support and involvement including external speaker sessions;
- Joint partnerships with the wider community such as local mainstream schools, Edge Hill University, Police, Addaction, local charities (i.e Twinkle House) community groups, social charities.

At The Acorns School we believe in the support and development of good human beings, to be purposeful and aware of themselves. We share a common citizenship to find a way of working and living together successfully.

Our mission is to offer a positive, life enhancing education, providing opportunities for the development of each individual's potential

Mr P Finnegan

Reviewed Sept 22. Date of next review Sept 23.

Reviewed JH November 2024

