

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development Policy

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Park Street Church of England Primary School

Statement of General Policy on Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development (SMSC)

1. Introduction

Park Street Church of England Primary School is a school with a Christian character and seeks to ensure that all who learn and work within the school are enabled to experience 'life in all its fullness' [Jn 10.10] - to be people 'fully alive' [St Irenaeus].

To this end, all of our work, our policies and our procedures seek to ensure that we honour God, love our neighbour as ourselves, do to others as we would have them do to us, we don't judge others, and we seek to be good stewards of God's creation. These basic tenets of our Christian faith inform our values of "Honesty and Respect, Friendship and Kindness, Learning and Fun."

2. Aims

We strive to create a learning environment which promotes respect, diversity and self-awareness and equips all of our pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they will need to succeed in their future lives.

As a Church of England school, we aim:

- to be a safe, supportive and caring school which provides a nurturing environment for every member of the community;
- to offer a breadth of opportunity to enable each child to fulfil their potential;
- to be inclusive, celebrating the strengths and differences of our diverse community;
- to have high aspirations for our children, inspiring creativity and a lifelong love of learning.

Our core values are: Honesty & Respect; Friendship & Kindness; Learning & Fun.

3. Spiritual Development

For some, the spiritual is intimately bound up with the belief in God, whilst for others it is bound up with the human spirit alone.

As a church school, we aim to provide a set of values based on the Christian faith. Central to the Christian teaching is the love of God and the love of one's neighbour as oneself.

We are committed to:

- celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our pupils bring as part of their family/culture heritage and to building an awareness of and respect for others' spiritual and religious beliefs.
- fostering common human values and building spiritual capacities to promote self-worth.
- self-esteem and a valuing of others.
- helping our pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on ultimate questions.
- developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a sense of awe and wonder.

We achieve this through:

- our RE curriculum.
- our acts of collective worship.
- our school environment.
- celebrating religious festivals of various faiths.
- visiting places of worship of different faiths.

4. Moral Development

We are committed to encouraging pupils to:

- be truthful and honest.
- respect the rights and property of others, their opinions and customs, even when they are different from our own.
- help others.
- solve differences of opinion in non-violent ways.

Consequently we reject all forms of bullying, cruelty, dishonesty, violence and discrimination.

We achieve this through:

- our behavioural policies.
- themes in our acts of collective worship.
- school buddies.
- working together on setting boundaries.

5. Social Development

We are committed to:

- fostering the skill and qualities of team building through the development of self-confidence, co-operation, sensitivity to others, reliability, initiative and understanding.
- providing an environment where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society.

The values of Honesty & Respect; Friendship & Kindness and Learning & Fun are modelled throughout the school.

We achieve this through:

- after-school and lunchtime activities.
- sporting activities.
- theatrical activities.
- pair and small group work within the classroom.
- school buddies.
- participation in Acts of Worship.

6. Cultural Development

We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the world by:

- promoting an appreciation of our own cultural tradition/s and encouraging an appreciation of other peoples' cultural traditions.
- celebrating the richness of culture and tradition.

We achieve this through:

- visitors from the local and international community.
- celebrations of other cultures (e.g. international week).
- being part of national and international fundraising events.
- understanding and celebration of different faiths.

7. Commitment

In the light of this we will ensure that the SMSC development of our pupils is promoted across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school by:

- providing an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enables pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution
- encouraging teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to develop SMSC development and to ensure subject leaders have an understanding of SMSC education in their subjects.
- recognising the importance of our collective worship programme in supporting and encouraging SMSC development.
- reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school development.