

**SMSC Policy**

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**Rationale**

At Holy Trinity, we recognise that social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is central to the education of all pupils and permeates the whole curriculum and ethos of the school. It is reflected in the behaviours of individuals and in their interactions and also in the provision of teaching, resources and learning environments.

Social development relates to the development of knowledge and understanding and the acquisition of skills in relating to others. This begins with family and friends and extends to the wider community beyond. Pupils are taught to respect each other and to appreciate each other’s similarities and differences. An awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live is also developed.

Moral development relates particularly to developing knowledge and understanding of right and wrong. Pupils learn to make choices in their behaviour through developing knowledge of boundaries and understanding of consequences. They learn by example and by practising through role-play, story and group activities.

Spiritual development is concerned with the exploration and development of feelings and emotions; personality, individuality and uniqueness; and knowledge and understanding of their own and different beliefs and cultures.

Cultural development is concerned with encountering the defining aspects of different cultures. Explorations of values, beliefs, customs, foods, artefacts and stories allow the pupils to make comparisons and develop knowledge of lifestyles and choices of others.

**Strategies**

SMSC development is taught through and reflected in all areas of the curriculum and through all aspects of school life. Pupils are provided with the opportunities to gain in knowledge and understanding and to develop the skills they need to participate in the life of the diverse community in which they live. For example:

**Social**

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable children to:

* develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
* learn about service in the school and wider community
* begin to understand the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantage

Alongside our curriculum we promote this in a variety of ways:

* Staff on the playground at break times and lunchtimes promote appropriate social interaction. Pupils play together in group games and imaginative play on their own and with adults.
* Circle times feature in all classes promoting turn taking and social interaction.
* The PSHE scheme of work (SCARF) contains units on Health and Wellbeing and Relationships
* Children learn to be effective communicators through the school’s class and council.
* Educational visits within the community, including swimming and crown green bowling.

**Moral**

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable children to:

* recognise the unique value of each individual
* listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
* gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes
* take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
* distinguish between right and wrong
* show respect for the environment
* make informed and independent judgements.

Alongside our curriculum we promote this in a variety of ways:

* There is an agreed reward system in place so that all children can earn rewards for good behaviour as well as academic achievement. The rewards include ‘Star of the Week’, the headteacher’s Most Impressive Award, recognition of Christian Values and are presented at weekly celebration assemblies so that everyone shares in the success.
* Regular meetings are held to discuss any issues with behaviour to ensure that all staff are supported and that ideas are shared.
* Behaviour plans are agreed and implemented with the help of the behaviour team.
* The PSHE scheme of work has units dealing with issues to do with rules, negotiating difficult situations, emotions, caring for one another, making and keeping friends, living in a community.
* Our curriculum includes many opportunities for children to con

**Spiritual**

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable children to:

* sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
* develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
* foster their emotional life and express their feelings
* experience moments of reflection
* discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal
* experiences
* form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships

Christian values, principles and spirituality will be explored in the curriculum, especially in RE and Collective Worship. The integrity and spirituality of other faith backgrounds and non-religious views will be respected and explored.

* The RE scheme of work contains units on celebrations, festivals and worship from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism.
* Children are encouraged to take part in periods of reflection at different times throughout the school week.
* Through PSHE and circle time activities, children are helped to gain an understanding of their feelings and emotions and their likely impact on themselves and others.
* Mealtimes start with a prayer in each class led by the teachers.
* Pupils are encouraged to appreciate the awe and wonder of the world around them whenever appropriate occasions arise e.g. looking at beautiful objects in an assembly, looking for signs of Spring on a Geography trip, visiting a planetarium in Science work on the Earth and beyond.

**Cultural**

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable children to:

* recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society
* recognise the rich mixture of local religious traditions
* develop an understanding of their own social and cultural environment
* develop the cultural capital to enable children to excel in a multicultural world

We do this in the following ways:

* There are regular celebrations of religious festivals over the year including harvest, Divali, Christmas, Easter, Eid, Chinese New Year. Festivals from each of the main world faiths are studied over a two year cycle - one each term.
* Geography and RE have units on other cultures and religions.
* English includes units on stories from other cultures.
* All pupils are accepted equally and play an active part in the school community regardless of their colour, religion or gender.
* Children participate in a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities provided by the school.

**Where you can find SMSC at Holy Trinity School**

* The curriculum as a whole
* The Religious Education Curriculum
* The PSHE Curriculum
* Circle Time
* Assemblies
* Behaviour policy
* Structured and personalised reward systems
* Extra-curricular activities
* Educational visits
* Pupil Voice (School and Class Council)
* Special days (fundraising, cultural experiences and curriculum enhancement days)

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all pupils’ experiences and awareness of others.

Our Acts of Collective Worship help all pupils to find out about themselves and others linking their lives to the communities in which they belong.

Pupils are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum themes. For example, pupils have visited many local places. As a school, we take part in sporting activities which helps to instil ‘fair play’ and engender a ‘team spirit’.

Although some of our pupils may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and concerns, staff are attuned to changes in demeanour and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If they are concerned about a pupil our accepted practice links to the Child Protection Policy which entrusts a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of children.

The staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the pupils at Holy Trinity are happy, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills they need to live a fulfilling life as part of their community.

**British Values**

We promote ‘British Values’ through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which permeates through the school’s curriculum and supports the development of the ‘whole child’.

We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for our pupils.

The curriculum in all phases offers broad and balanced opportunities.

‘British Values’ have been identified as:

Democracy:

The ability to understand and communicate are the most important areas of learning. We ensure that pupils are given a ‘voice’ to communicate. This ‘voice’ could be using words, objects, photographs, pictures, symbols, signing, eye pointing or body language.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each ‘voice‘and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

We have an active School Council.

Rule of Law:

We involve pupils in setting codes of behaviour; helping pupils to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society at large.

Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond. We can help many pupils to understand the connection between actions and consequences. This type of environment enables pupils to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

Individual Liberty:

Pupils are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each pupil to become as independent as possible. We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights; this includes the right to say ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to ideas or activities. Many of our pupils will be able to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights comes certain responsibilities. Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to understand yourself. We support others by participating in charitable events such as Red Nose Day/Comic Relief and Children in Need. We believe that engendering a caring and helpful environment and being independent can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

Mutual Respect:

We promote each pupil’s inclusion in activities, settings and locations that are appropriate to them individually to meet their needs. Within school, pupils work with a range of people and interactions with others are always positively promoted. The curriculum is personalised and planned for pupils to go into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include community events and shared participation with other schools.

We believe it is important to facilitate opportunities to be part of the community as the pupils, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion. This includes visits to Darwen Heritage Centre and Darwen Library who run competitions that the pupils are encouraged to enter.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs:

We are part of a school and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.