

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural development policy for Sibertswold Church of England School**

This Policy reflects our Christian vision based on Jesus the Good Shepherd John 10 v 10.

Spiritual development is the concern to develop the most distinctive and desirable capacities of the human person, ie those capacities that, above all, distinguish human beings from other living creatures. It is a concern which goes beyond what a pupil can know and can do and relates to what sort of person they are and are becoming.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC)**

( Whilst each dimension is outlined separately there is a great deal of overlap between the four areas)

#### **AIMS**

At Sibertswold Church of England Primary School, we want our pupils to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens. We recognise the importance of both the academic and personal development and well-being of every child in our school. This includes recognising the importance of providing a range of opportunities for our pupils to respond to, that supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

#### **Spiritual development:**

These spiritual capacities of:

- self-awareness and self-knowledge
- sensitivity and responsiveness
- inner strength and resilience
- ideals and aspirations
- love and relationships
- striving and seeking
- reflection on experience

Spiritual development enables people to look within themselves at their human relationships, at the wider world. The Spiritual development of all our children is addressed through the ethos of the school.

As a church controlled school we include Christian Spiritual practices including, prayer, worship, celebration of festivals and reading/reflection on the Bible within Collective Worship, RE and the wider curriculum.

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 will provide opportunities for the children to:

- experience stillness and reflection
- develop spiritual beliefs and moral values within a supportive and enquiring environment
- experience the spiritual claims and moral dimensions of the Christian faith
- identify present issues of spiritual, social and moral significance and to explore Christian responses to them
- find worth, meaning and purpose in their life and experience
- recognise, respect and celebrate cultural and religious diversity

### **Moral development**

We try to ensure that pupils behave and act in a morally acceptable way and that they understand the principles, beliefs and reasons on which their's and others' behaviour and actions are based.

Teachers are involved every day in helping pupils to understand right from wrong, what is inappropriate behaviour inside and outside the classroom and how to treat others with respect, dignity and compassion.

The school has a programme of moral education which is aimed at developing sound moral attitudes and behaviour and thereby preventing any incidents of injustice or victimisation. The school encourages class teachers to help pupils reflect on their feelings and attitudes, behaviour and actions. This takes place on a regular informal basis but also in RE lessons with a moral focus, in PSHCE learning and in daily Worship.

Moral development: knowing what is right and wrong and acting on it accordingly. 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 peaceful ways

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

### **Social development**

Social development: developing an understanding of rights and responsibilities of living in community-of-being a "responsible citizen". 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

### **Cultural development**

Cultural development: knowledge and understanding of others' cultural traditions. 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.
- Our school policies on different areas of our curriculum aim to promote our pupils' cultural development.
- Areas such as Art, Music, Drama, History and Geography make positive contributions to cultural awareness.
- The school's provision for extra-curricular activities include activities such as theatre visits and places of national importance.
- A balance will be established between promoting the cultural development of our pupils and developing an awareness of other cultures and faiths, so they may live at ease in a multi-cultural country.
- The following policies are closely linked with our spiritual, moral, social and cultural policy:
  - Inclusion/Equal Opportunity Policy
  - Collective Worship Policy
- Review Date: July 2019