



**Bishop David
Sheppard**

CE Primary School

Following Jesus, together we succeed

SMSC Policy

Date: October 2020

Renewal Date: October 2023

This policy has been adopted with the approval of the Governing Body. It will be renewed on a regular basis. This policy reflects the ethos of the articles agreed at the U.N. convention on the Rights of the Child. This Policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Motto of *Following Jesus, together we succeed* which underpins all we do in school.

This supports and reinforces the aims of Bishop David Sheppard C.E. School, valuing all children equally and as individuals. Our school has a Christian foundation and we actively promote the gospel values of Friendship, Compassion, Forgiveness, Endurance, Respect and Fairness.

In contrast to policies for specific curriculum subjects, this policy relates to the whole life of the school. Of particular importance in promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) is the example set by adults in the school, the quality of relationships and the standard of daily collective worship. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the 2014 National curriculum but also through the very ethos of our church school.

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects of education concentrate on the development of each pupil as a person, aiming to enrich the life of each child through the values, attitudes, beliefs and consequent behaviour developed during school years. We recognise that the development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part not only in their ability to learn and achieve but in their ability to relate fully to, and to have the ability to access, the world in which they live. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides children with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, whilst recognising that those of others may differ. When children leave Bishop David Sheppard CE School they will have the skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully and positively at secondary school and in a democratic and modern Britain.

Personal beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour including a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of others' social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures are all critical skills and dispositions that we nurture, encourage and develop through our curriculum subjects and the wider curriculum.

Spiritual Development:

We believe that being a child is in itself a spiritual experience and we support each child in developing their own spirituality. Spiritual development is a process of growth and is not synonymous with religious education. An important part of this development is becoming aware of and reflecting on life experiences. Pupils discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences. Spiritual development

features reflection on, consideration of and celebration of, the wonders and mysteries of life and involves a human flourishing of that which has been put within each child by God.

In our Church of England school, spiritual development takes place within a specific Christian ethos. The idea of community and the fostering of good relationships is vital for understanding spirituality. We give every child and young person a life enhancing encounter with the Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ. We see everyone as made in God's image and likeness; therefore we see every meeting with people as a potential encounter with God and an opportunity for spiritual growth. Recognising and responding to God is a key element in Spiritual development.

All members of our school community are on different stages of a faith journey. Spiritual development in our school seeks to support every individual on their personal and spiritual encounter with God.

We encourage exploration of World Religions so that in each year, every pupil has an experience of Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Islamism customs and practices.

Aims for Spiritual Development:

- to listen and be reflective
- to sense wonder and mystery in the world
- to recognise the special nature of human relationships
- to be aware of the sacred and the holy

Objectives for Spiritual Development:

- to develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- to develop the ability to use all ones senses
- to promote an awareness of and enjoyment in using one's imaginative potential
- to encourage quiet reflection during a lesson or assembly or worship
- to develop individual self-confidence in expressing inner thoughts in a variety of ways
- to consider the mystery of God and the wonder of God's world
- to find an inner confidence and peace

Moral Development

Acquiring a knowledge and understanding of what is right and wrong is central to moral development. It has at its heart, values which inform those judgements. It is the basis upon which pupils develop the ability to make judgements about how to behave, and it is the standpoint from which to consider the behaviour of others in school and society in general. The system of rules and codes of behaviour established in our school is an

important early introduction to issues of fairness for all and to the consequences of operating outside the accepted rule system. Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of consequences or sanctions. Moral development, based on Christian principles and values, enables our pupils to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour. Our school environment of trust, openness and respect, supports loving relationships between the children and members of the whole school community. It enables each member to reach their full potential. We strive to be a community in which Gospel Values, seen as expressions of Christian love, flourish.

In order for successful relationships with others to flourish, we acknowledge the importance of self-image and self-worth and actively promote the building of self-confidence, self-esteem, self-control and a sense of responsibility.

Aims for Moral Development

- to understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions
- to be able to take moral decisions for themselves
- to assume moral responsibility through belief and conviction
- to be able to distinguish between right and wrong
- to promote the practice of building self-esteem, self-control and a sense of responsibility for oneself and for others

Objectives for Moral Development

- to tell the truth
- to respect the rights and property of others
- to keep promises
- to help those less fortunate than ourselves
- to act considerately towards others
- to take responsibility for one's own actions
- to exercise self-discipline
- to develop high expectations
- to develop positive attitudes
- to conform to rules and regulations for the good of all
- to show respect for the environment
- to take informed and independent judgements
- to take action for justice

Social Development

Development in this area enables pupils to become conscientious participants in firstly, the society of the family and then, progressively, the class, the school and the wider community. Provision for social development balances the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a

group or society with the demands and obligations such membership requires.

The school, both within and outside of the classroom, provides a suitable environment for promoting social development. Pupils learn to lead, to use their initiative and to use individual skills and strengths when working together towards a common goal. The ability to lead and be led, to support others and to recognise the different skills of other group members is developed when children work co-operatively.

Pupils learn to appreciate the global issues of poverty, financial hardship and dangers to the environment through the Global Neighbours scheme of work.

Aims for Social Development:

- to relate positively to others
- to participate fully and take responsibility in the classroom and in the school
- to understand how to participate socially in events outside of the school environment
- to develop a good sense of team spirit
- to use appropriate behaviour, according to different situations
- to engage successfully in partnership with others
- to exercise personal responsibility and initiative
- to understand that, as individuals, we depend on family, school and society

Objectives for Social Development:

- to share such emotions as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear and reverence
- 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, e.g. sporting activities, visits, church services, music festivals, competitions, fund raising events etc.
- to develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being part of a whole caring community
- to show care and consideration for others by sharing and taking turns
- to realise there are things each person can do well
- to take responsibility for jobs and activities which support the school such as joining the School council, Eco Council, Ethos Committee, RRS steering group and sporting groups

Cultural Development

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions of others. At Bishop David Sheppard we have children who come from a variety of different cultural backgrounds and we deeply value this in supporting the cultural development and sense of tolerance for others' beliefs and backgrounds. Difference is both accepted and celebrated. 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 such as history, geography, English and RE and the arts can be used to promote and develop cultural awareness.

Aims for Cultural Development:

The aims and objectives of cultural development relate to differing aspects of the word 'culture.'

- to develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background
- to encourage a response to a variety of cultural events
- to share different cultural experiences
- to respect different cultural traditions
- to understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition

Objectives for Cultural Development:

- to develop an awareness and recognition of cultural appreciation in terms of music, art, drama, literature etc
- to develop a love of learning
- to develop an understanding of British cultural tradition, including Christianity
- to recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain
- to develop an understanding of the UK's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions
- to appreciate the values and customs of other ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British society and the world beyond
- to develop the ability to value current cultural enthusiasms such as icons and celebrities, music and media, critically and independently of peer pressure

Links with other policies

Other policies will be closely linked to SMSC development are:

Personal, Social and Health Education Programme of Study

Behaviour Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Collective Worship Policy

RE Policy
PSHE Policy

Provision for SMSC:

Our SMSC Evidence File contains further information regarding our provision for SMSC.