



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

To inspire confident learners who will thrive in a changing world.

At Swinford Church of England Primary School we recognise that spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is the key to turning a basic education into an outstanding one. It should be promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values. Our vision is clear:

"I will be the best that I can be, and I will allow myself to love and to be loved safe in the knowledge that the rest will follow."

SMSC development is crucial for individuals and it is crucial for society as a whole. As teachers, we believe it is the heart of what education is all about - helping students grow and develop as people.

The development of our pupils is influenced by what our school stands for and almost everything we do. We understand our obligations to nurture, and strive to further improve, our distinctive Christian ethos, to maintain and strengthen all existing collaborative relationships and establish new links with a wide range of groups and individuals.

All of our staff understand the importance of modelling and promoting expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for all pupils and their families. The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals, and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school. At Swinford School our Christian vision rooted in love, where all are welcomed and nurtured to reach their full potential.

Love is patient, love is kind, love always protects, love always hopes, love always trusts, Love never fails. (Based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

SMSC is a dimension of the whole school experience which makes the curriculum relevant, stimulating, creative and fun. It enriches every subject and provides the school with the opportunity to foster good relations, ensure equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful behaviour.

Guidelines

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum.

- All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for children and their families.
- The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school.
- Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.
- Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.
- All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in teacher's planning and purchasing decisions.

Aims

- To ensure that everyone is aware of our values and principles
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility

Spiritual Development

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils 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 stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life

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 will be respected. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and children will be given access to alternative views.

Moral Development

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

Social Development

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

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Learn about service in the school and wider community
- Begin to understand the Christian imperative for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged.
- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of public institutions and services in England.

Cultural Development

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

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influenced individuals and society
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions

As a school we recognise the importance of these values because:

- Everyone achieves better when they feel valued
- Our beliefs and values influence the way we behave and the community that we live in
- Education is about the development of the whole person

Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle. Teachers will inspire pupils through the enthusiasm for and modelling of learning. Teachers at Swinford Church of England Primary School will use creative strategies and challenging questions to engage pupils in their learning and relate it to their own experiences.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. Class discussions, assemblies and special events will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events, e.g., bullying, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider others needs and behaviour
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally such as empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity and critical awareness
- Listen and talk to each other
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are physically or mentally different
- Agree and disagree
- Take turns and share equipment
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively

Links with the wider community

Visitors are welcomed into school

The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents, teachers and the wider community to work in an effective partnership to make sure that we give our pupils the best possible environment in which to learn, play and dream. Pupils are taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Personal development is also enriched through a wide range of extra-curricular activities which provide opportunities for SMSC and for inspiring pupils to broaden their experience and horizons.