

SS Osmund & Andrew's RCPS



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Introduction

As a Roman Catholic primary school the context of our SMSC policy lies in Christian values.

The school takes an active approach in the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of our pupils' education. The policy is reinforced by many of our other policies, particularly those concerned with behaviour, equal opportunities, personal social and health education and citizenship.

The whole of the school community value Equality, Forgiveness, Generosity, Honesty and Trust.

Definitions

The following definitions are used within the context of this policy: -

Spiritual development This can be defined as personal development relating to the spirit or soul and the intangible. It does not necessarily relate to physical nature or matter and is not synonymous with religious education – although religious education and collective worship can be a major vehicle for the delivery of spiritual matters. The spirituality we promote is Christian in nature.

Moral development This can be defined as personal development relating to human behaviour, especially the distinction between good and bad, right and wrong.

Social development This can be defined as a personal development concerned with living in a community rather than alone.

Cultural development This can be defined as personal development concerned with the total of inherited ideas, beliefs, values and knowledge which constitute the shared basis for social action.

Aims

The ethos of our school is such that all people who come into our school, whether staff, pupil, parent or visitor, are valued as individuals in their own right. They should set, and be entitled to expect from others, good standards of behaviour, marked by respect and responsibility.

The role model standards will be set by the Headteacher and practiced by all staff in order to set an effective example for our children. However, we must recognise that the children's development will be affected by many factors other than those which the school itself provides. These include maturity, personality, gender, family, peer group, ethnicity, cultural background and more generally the moral, spiritual and cultural climate of our society and of the communities to which they belong.

Through religious education and acts of Collective Worship, children will be introduced to a broad spectrum of beliefs. They will be encouraged to value other people's opinions and develop a questioning mind across a wide area of the curriculum.

Planning

In planning lessons teachers are aware of the need to plan for opportunities in spirituality and

reflection as well as for thinking skills and the key skills.

Spiritual Development

Planned opportunities for spiritual development in all subjects can be seen across the school. Children are given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of spiritual experiences.

Examples of experiences commonly regarded as spiritual include:

- Curiosity and mystery
- Awe and wonder
- Connection and belonging
- Heightened self-awareness
- Prayer and worship
- Deep feelings of what is felt to be ultimately important
- A sense of security, well-being, worth and purposefulness

These can occur during any part of the school day, e.g. when listening to music, discussing the care needed for animals, exercising empathy or creativity, how we live, contemplating the future, etc.

Moral/Social Development

It is important that children are given clear guidance as to what is not acceptable behaviour, so that they can develop a moral code of their own that is socially acceptable. With this in mind each class works together at the beginning of each academic year to create a class rules agreement. All members of the classroom, including adults sign this and it is referred back to regularly throughout the year.

The School values all children:

- Telling the truth
- Keeping promises
- Respecting the rights and property of others
- Acting considerately towards others
- Helping those less fortunate and weaker than ourselves
- Taking personal responsibility for one's actions
- Self-discipline

And We Reject

- Bullying
- Cheating
- Deceit
- Cruelty
- Irresponsibility
- Dishonesty

Teachers always discuss with their classes a code of conduct for the classroom based on the values held by the school. We will teach the children to be aware of their own actions, take responsibility for their own bodies and encourage independence. We will help the children to identify their feelings and think these through so that they are expressed in behaviour that is socially acceptable. This is done through worship, circle time, social skills groups and SEAL sessions (PSHE).

We are interested in the development of the whole child and will endeavour to raise their self-esteem through praise, stickers, Learner's of the Week and other means that highlight both academic and social achievements.

Cultural Development

Children should be made aware of the diversity of other cultures both within modern Britain and throughout the world. This can be done through music, PE, art and many other curriculum areas. This is shown in our curriculum plans.

When children first come into school a lot of time is spent in learning to co-operate. This continues through the whole school, learning through play activities, a variety of groupings, controlled activities and by observing the way that the staff work together. We also value the family from which the children come and our strong links with parents encourage the child to see that we are working in co-operation with their parents. By starting with a pupil's own culture and recognising our own traditions it is hoped that as they are introduced to other beliefs and cultures each pupil will respect and value them.