



## Millfield Primary School

### Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Development Policy (including how the school promotes and teaches British Values)

#### Introduction

The aim of the education provided by Millfield Primary School is to enable all pupils to be successful learners who have high aspirations, confident individuals (who are able to make good life-style choices) and responsible moral citizens (who care for others – locally, nationally and globally).

The academic and personal development and well-being of every child in our school is of the highest importance. 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.

Academic achievement and progress is crucial in everything we do in order to help our pupils reach their full potential. We are aware that a focus on personal development in general and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in particular, contributes to academic achievement, since it raises motivation and self-esteem and leads to a better learning environment in which our pupils will flourish. We are committed to empowering our pupils to be confident, healthy, happy, reflective and well informed people who are able to make informed choices and decisions.

#### Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Whilst each area is outlined below separately there is a great deal of overlap between the four areas.

#### Spiritual development

Our school is committed to:

- Celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our pupils bring as part of their family/cultural heritage and to building an awareness of and respect for others' spiritual and religious beliefs
- Fostering common human values (eg love, tolerance, forgiveness) and building spiritual capacities (eg sensitivity and responsiveness, inner strength and resilience) to promote self-worth, self-esteem and a valuing of others
- Helping our pupils come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals (for some this will be inextricably linked with the belief in God/the divine) and encouraging them to reflect on ultimate questions
- Developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and aesthetic responses to life and learning, and promoting a sense of awe and wonder

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## **Moral development**

Our school is committed to:

- Empowering our pupils with the ability to recognise what is right and wrong and act upon it accordingly.
- Encouraging our pupils to take personal responsibility for their actions. Everyone is expected to abide by our school Code of Conduct and behaviour policy which is written for all members of the school community and which provides a framework for the creation of a happy, secure and orderly environment in which children can learn and develop as caring and responsible people

## **Social development**

We aim to enable our pupils to meet his/her responsibilities towards themselves and others through:

- Fostering the skills 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 in the wider society (local, national, global)

## **Cultural development**

We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the world in general by:

- Promoting an appreciation of our own cultural traditions and encouraging an appreciation of other people's cultural traditions including those represented in school as well as local, national and global communities
- Celebrating the richness of culture and tradition

## **Procedures and Practise**

In order to achieve best practise in spiritual, moral, social and cultural development the head teacher and governing body of the school will:

- Ensure that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils is taken seriously and appropriately promoted across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school
- Provide an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to issues of spiritual, moral, social and cultural importance and concern; encouraging them to learn how to be physically still and yet mentally alert as they think deeply about (reflect on) such issues; using their senses and developing their curiosity, imagination and creativity

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- Encourage all our children to act responsibly and take responsibility for themselves and others; maintaining a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make positive contributions to school life
- Ensuring that staff new to the school are inducted into our policy and practice surrounding these areas of personal development
- Encourage all teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to encourage children to address these issues within the context of different subject's/area's programmes of study; expecting curriculum leaders to take into consideration spiritual, moral, social and cultural development issues as part of subject planning and monitoring processes.
- Recognise the importance of our collective worship / assemblies programme in supporting and encouraging pupils to respond to these issues.
- Ensure that the head teacher promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural development across the school.

### **Promoting Fundamental British Values**

The DfE has reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.'

The Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent strategy, and these values were reiterated in 2014. At Millfield Primary School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

#### **Democracy**

Children are listened to and are taught to listen carefully to others. Children are taught to respect the right of individuals to have their voices and opinions heard. They are taught to discuss issues in a balanced and calm way.

At the beginning of each school year in each classroom children work together with staff to agree the rules for their classroom. Our school council meets regularly and discusses issues raised in class or as a whole school. Each council member is voted for by their own class.

Children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

## **The rule of law**

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country are consistently reinforced at Millfield Primary School.

Children are taught the value and the reason behind the rules and the laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibility this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as local councillors, street wardens, local police and the fire service help to reinforce this message.

## **Individual liberty**

At our school, children are actively encouraged to make the right choices, knowing they are in a safe and supportive environment. Children are expected to take responsibility for their own actions and to understand the consequence their actions might have. We educate and provide boundaries for children to enable them to make informed choices, through a safe and supportive environment. The understanding of rights and responsibilities are promoted through acts of collective worship, e safety, and PSHE. These messages are reinforced through school assemblies and classroom activities.

## **Mutual respect**

Respect for others and themselves is a key value at our school. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect.

## **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Millfield Primary School is situated in an area that is not culturally diverse. The school therefore recognises its important role in preparing children for life in modern Britain. We actively promote celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Through RE and personal and social education we reinforce messages of tolerance and respect.

## **The curriculum**

Staff regularly review the curriculum to ensure that it promotes the areas above. It also ensures that pupils are taught about key events and figures in history. Events during the year celebrate culturally diverse occasions and memorable events taking place in the country.

*At Millfield Primary School we will actively challenge children, staff or parents who express opinions that are contrary to fundamental British values including extremist views.*

## **Monitoring and review**

The board of governors will review this policy every two years or when necessary or at such time as there are significant changes to national guidance.

Mr. S. Kelly

Updated – September 2015

Date of next review: September 2017

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