



**Policy for
Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural
Development**

The distinctive nature and religious character of our school presents itself in all aspects of our school life especially in the way we aim to assist the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

At St. Richard's, we believe that education is a means of proclaiming and revealing the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to our children, so that they may develop fully as human beings and discover purpose and meaning in their lives, now and in the future.

At St. Richard's, our Catholic ethos permeates all aspects of school life and supports spiritual, moral, social and cultural development both within and beyond the curriculum.

We believe in the God-given dignity of each person and are committed to ensuring all pupils have opportunities to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

The four aspects of SMSC development can be summarised as follows:

Spiritual Development

- explore beliefs and experience
- respect values
- discover self and the surrounding world
- use imagination and creativity
- reflect
- foster awe and wonder

Moral Development

- recognise right and wrong
- understand consequences
- investigate moral and ethical issues
- offer reasoned views

Social Development

- use social skills in different contexts
- work well with others;
- resolve conflicts
- understand how communities work

Cultural Development

- appreciate cultural influences
- participate in cultural opportunities
- understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development happens when pupils:

- are reflective about beliefs, values and more profound aspects of human experience, use their imagination and creativity, and develop curiosity as learners

- develop and apply an understanding of right and wrong in their school life and life outside school
- take part in a range of activities requiring social skills
- develop awareness of and respect for diversity in relation to, for example, gender, race, religion and belief, culture, sexual orientation and disability
- gain a well-informed understanding of the options and challenges facing them as they move through the school and on to the next stage of their education and training
- develop an appreciation of theatre, music, art and literature
- develop the skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully and positively in democratic modern Britain
- respond positively to a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities
- understand and appreciate the range of different cultures within school and the wider community as an essential element of their preparation for life

Opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development at St. Richard's

Opportunities for SMSC development are often interwoven across the curriculum and in all aspects of school and Catholic life.

Spiritual Development

- RE curriculum – Come and See
- ‘Respect’ and ‘Rejoice’ activities within ‘Come and See’
- studies of other faiths eg. Hinduism
- daily collective worship
- use of the prayer garden
- use of the prayer room
- use of reflection stations
- listening to music
- focus table for reflection in each class and in collective worship
- marking or celebrating religious feasts, Catholic and other
- marking or celebrating different aspects of the Liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, Pentecost)
- supporting pupils in preparing for and celebrating the Sacraments through the ‘With You Always’ programme
- links with the Church, St Richard's and parish community, St Margaret Clitherow
- building in time to reflect
- opportunities to be still and times to be quiet
- opportunities to question and wonder why
- appreciating places of beautiful things and places such as Lockerbie

- opportunities for pupils to discover and develop their talents within school and clubs
- provision suiting a range of learning styles

Moral Development

- clear expectations for behaviour
- personalised code of conduct displayed in every class
- behaviour plans and positive handling plans as needed
- constant positive reminders about right choices and wrong choices
- conflict resolution of incidents
- annual anti-bullying day
- assertive mentoring system
- weekly celebration awards
- all incidences of bullying or discrimination to be dealt with in accordance with policies
- RE Curriculum – Come and See
- SEAL/PSHCE Curriculum
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation
- School Council
- Eco Council
- CAFOD stories from communities around the world
- buddies
- safety and e-safety
- fundraising for charity eg. CAFOD, HCPT, Nugent Care, Atherton Foodbank, Atherton and Leigh Hospice
- modelling good practice through relationships and interactions e.g fairness,
- respect for people and respect for differences
- celebrating role models in school, the community and in the news

Social Development

- building and valuing a sense of community
- Social and Fundraising Group community events – Easter bingo, Christmas and Summer fairs, Family Nights, Coffee afternoons
- school led community events such as sports events, performances, remembrance parade
- give something back to the community projects, carol singing, Belong retirement village link
- parish events such as ‘family mass’
- opportunities to work co-operatively through use of talk partners
- team building experiences such as Lockerbie
- celebration of achievements out in the community, certificates, trophies

- valuing the cornerstones of community, such as fairness, honesty, justice, equality
- making links to gospel values in scripture
- conflict resolution of incidents

Cultural Development

- highlighting and celebrating national cultural events such as Diamond Jubilee
- multi-cultural projects eg. Chinese New Year
- promoting understanding and respect for all cultures
- extending pupils cultural language, French as MFL
- theatre visits for musical and theatrical performances
- visits and visitors such as M&M Productions
- exhibitions and displays, including cultural service loans