



Chapel Lane, Harsehead, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST7 4JL

Telephone: 01782 512301

Headteacher: Mrs E. Bradbury

headteacher@thursfield.staffs.sch.uk

Thursfield Primary School Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Policy, Including Fundamental British Values

At Thursfield School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

Guidelines

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum. A teacher's plan for class-based SMSC should be completed each term. All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for 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. 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.

General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school 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 enable pupils to understand the importance of respect and leave school fully prepared for life in modern Britain.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- To actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

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.



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- 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.

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.
- Allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

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.
- Gain knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system

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. All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Class discussions and circle time 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 – eg empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc (for comprehensive list see attached sheet).



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Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- 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 and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil.
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This will be achieved by:

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning, by the Headteacher
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings
- Audit of policies and Schemes of Work.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Audit of Collective Worship policy and practice.
- Collation of evidence in pupil's work in school portfolio.
- Regular inclusion on SDP/SIP.

Review

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the policy review schedule.

Review date: Summer 2017

British values at Thursfield

The government set out their definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. These were reinforced in September 2014 due to recent events. These new regulations will sit alongside the requirements of the Equalities Act, which also applies to all types of schools.

Schools will be expected to focus on, and be able to show, how our work with pupils is effective in embedding fundamental British values.

Promoting British values at Thursfield

We agree with the Department for Education's five-part definition of British values:

- Democracy • The rule of law • Individual liberty • Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Thursfield, students will encounter these principles throughout everyday school life. The curriculum is mapped in detail across the whole school. Listed below are some examples of how we promote these values in our school community:

Democracy

Pupil voice is significant in regards to life at Thursfield. Our pupil elected school learning council plays a strong role in our school. They are elected by their class peers and are involved in making Thursfield a



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better place to learn. Pupils have a great amount of input in regards to what and how they learn, which promotes pupil voice. For example, the pupils decide as a class how they would like to learn certain skills in subjects and this is used to inform the teacher's planning.

Pupil questionnaires and interviews are also conducted throughout the year. We know that the formation of the school learning council and the active participation of our pupils will sow the seeds for a more sophisticated understanding of democracy in the future.

The Rule of Law

Our pupils will encounter rules and laws throughout their entire lives. We want our pupils to understand that whether these laws govern the class, the school, the neighbourhood or the country, they are set for good reasons and must be adhered to.

This understanding of the importance of rules will be consistently reinforced through assemblies and our curriculum. The children create their individual class charters at the very start of the year, each class present this in the first whole school assembly and explain why they have chosen these rules!

Throughout the year we welcome visits from members of the wider community including police, war veterans, the fire brigade and many more. We believe that clear explanations and real life stories emphasise the importance of the rule of law for our pupils.

Individual Liberty

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children are in a safe environment where choices and freedoms are encouraged. In school we have developed the concept of DRICE so children are aware of their own learning. Within lessons we encourage children to choose the task that will challenge them, giving them more freedom to determine their own learning.

We offer a range of extracurricular clubs which pupils have the freedom to choose from, based on their interests, including homework, reading, art and craft, football and many more clubs.

Mutual respect

Mutual respect is at the core of our school life. Students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. This is evident when walking around Thursfield and in the classrooms. Our School motto is "We Care, We Share, We DARE to DREAM" and this motto is seen throughout the school, in classrooms and play areas alike.

Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Thursfield we offer a culturally rich and diverse curriculum in which all major religions are studied and respected. At Thursfield we strongly believe that tolerance is gained through knowledge and understanding. Through our curriculum and the routines of our daily school life, we strive to demonstrate tolerance and help children to become knowledgeable and understanding citizens who can build a better Britain for the future. We have presentations across the school displaying information on many different religions, we have also ran RE days within which EVERY class in the school went on a trip to see a place of worship and learn about a different religions.