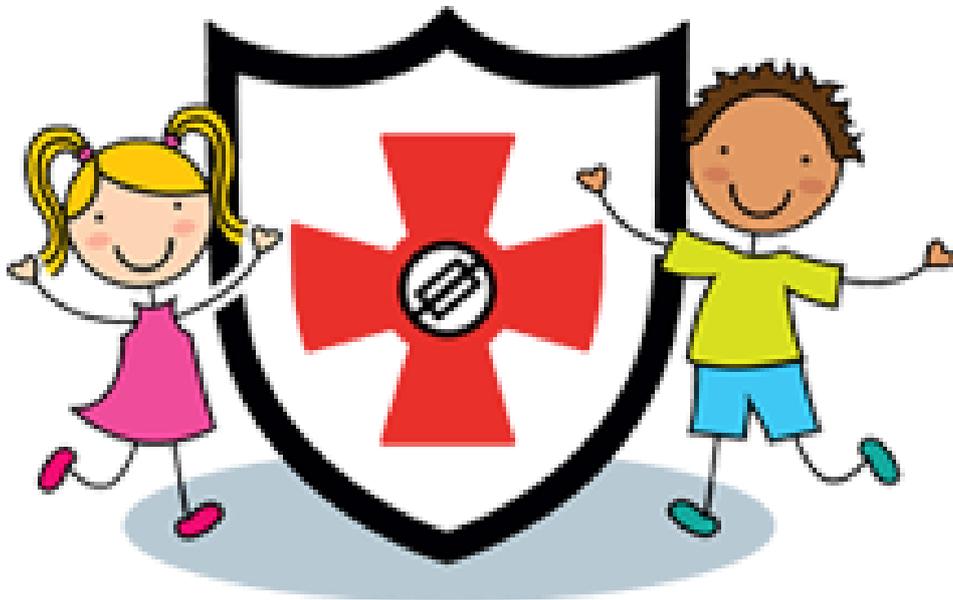


St Lawrence's VA funded
C of E Primary School



Spiritual, Moral, Social and
Cultural Policy

October 2018



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Policy Review

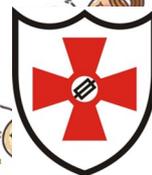
Our Mission Statement

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Policy Review

The SMSC Policy will be reviewed and updated every year.

Date of next review: October 2019

Date: 17th October 2018

S Griffiths

Our Mission Statement

'Loving and caring, welcoming and hospitable; brave and courageous'

Our mission is for every child at St Lawrence's to flourish as a child of God. Every child is an individual, and we educate the whole child, so that all our children fulfil their potential. Our children are young only once, and we will make sure they all get an education that is broad, rich and deep.

We want St Lawrence's to be a shining place of excellent teaching and learning where children have fun and where children are in a safe, secure and supportive learning environment.

We want all the children and adults at St Lawrence to be welcoming, kind, loving and encouraging. We respect the rights, values and beliefs of all people through the Christian ethos of the school, and care for each other, and serve our community.

We think Jesus might say to our school, **"St Lawrence's School is the shining light of its community. A school on top of a hill cannot be hidden! You don't light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead you put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let's make sure St Lawrence School shines in its community, so that everyone might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven."** (Paraphrase of Matthew 5:14-16)

Rationale

The school mission statement underpins our school's Christian ethos. Through our curriculum and our relationships with one another, we promote Christian values (particularly 'caring, considerate, courageous'), whilst recognising that not all of our school community are practising Christians. In fact, we are very privileged at St Lawrence's to serve a diverse community and children and families from a range of different faiths and cultural backgrounds.

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 offers pupils 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 other cultures.





The integrity and spirituality of pupils from other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored, we value opportunities to do so. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and pupils will be given access to alternative views.

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.

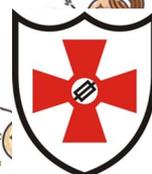
Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.

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.

Underpinning this are our school rules. We call these our Fab Five. They help to foster our core values whilst also promoting understanding and tolerance for others:

1. We listen carefully and do what we are asked.
2. We always truthful—even when we make mistakes!
3. We try our best and never give up!
4. We let others get on with their work so that they can learn.
5. We are kind and respectful of everyone in our school.

We also encourage the Christian values of being 'caring, considerate and courageous'. We believe that these values are fundamental in living a good life in the modern world. Children are encouraged to be considerate of others, embracing differences, as well as foster caring attitudes for those around them. We also recognize that it often takes a lot of courage to do the right thing and be the 'shining light' in our community and beyond.





Aims

Spiritual Development

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

- Develop self knowledge in their learning experience.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Be perceptive about people and situations and respond sensitively.
- Recognise and reflect on Christian and other Faiths' understanding of Spirituality.

Moral development

We strive to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent decisions.

Social Development

As a community, we promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about their role and responsibility within school and the wider community.
- Show empathy, care and respect for others





Cultural Development

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

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity and how these influence individuals and society.
- Recognise Christianity as one of the major world faiths
- Develop an understanding of their own social and cultural environment.

Guidelines

SMSC development will take place across all curriculum areas, in Collective Worship and in the general life of the school. Activities will aim to 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.

The development and nurture of SMSC for all children at St Lawrence's is the responsibility of everyone in our school community.

Resources

- There is one written copy of 'Roots and Fruits', which we use to support our Collective worship as a school. As part of this, we look at one different Christian Value every Half Term (on a bi-annual basis), including Generosity, Kindness and Respect, as well as many others.
- We are beginning to use the Values Reflection journals in some classes as a trial to share the values we learn about in class and collective worship with friends and family at home.
- Religious Education Syllabus—as a Church School, we focus on Christianity, however we also learn about Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism, Humanism, Atheism and class teachers have the opportunity to incorporate other faiths and world views they feel might be relevant, or pertinent for their own class. Our RE syllabus encourage children to consider the values and beliefs we learn about and reflect and compare these to their own lives and values. Children are encouraged throughout these sessions to be respectful and tolerant of the beliefs and opinions of others in these lessons, just as we encourage this same attitude in other curricular areas.



