

St Mary's C.E.V.C. Primary School

Policy for Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development

Section 78 of the Education Act 2002 sets education within the context of the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development of pupils and society. It acknowledges that education should not be restricted to a narrow academic curriculum, but also 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 other cultures.

The Christian commitment which underpins the work and nature of the School is endorsed in the Aims of the School.

Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the School is aware of our Christian values and principles.
 - To ensure a consistent approach to delivery of spiritual, social, moral and cultural 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 have a clear view of what is expected of them and why. To encourage them to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.
 - To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experiences.
 - To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity: to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
 - 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 give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- To encourage respect for other people.

Guidelines

- The values and principles that are reflected in the Christian ethos of the school are also reflected in all school policies and are whole school issues.
- The Christian values will be delivered at whole school Key Stages, class and individual levels, through the whole curriculum and Acts of Collective Worship.
- Opportunities for promoting the values of the school also exist at playtime and lunchtime.

- ° All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing Christian love and respect for pupils and their families.
- ° 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.

Teaching and Organisation

Class discussions and circle time will give pupils opportunities to:

- ° talk about personal experiences, feelings;
- ° express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs;
- ° to speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc;
- ° share thoughts and feelings with other people;
- ° to 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.

Pupils need to develop skills necessary to work and play effectively with others in pairs and small groups.

Throughout our creative curriculum we provide opportunities:

- ° to listen and talk to others;
- ° to learn an awareness of treating all as equals and accepting people who are physically or mentally different;
- ° to share ideas and points of view;
- ° to agree and disagree;
- ° to take turns and share equipment;
- ° to be spiritually uplifted through the arts within the school environment;
- ° to work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Links with wider community:

- ° visitors are welcomed into school;
- ° strong links with the church are fostered through links with the local church, Purton Churches together and the Diocesan Board of Education;
- ° 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 towards it.

Roles and Responsibility

The subject leader is responsible for writing and reviewing a policy for Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development that is uniform throughout the whole school. They will be responsible for:

- o Updating the policy and scheme of work;
- o taking an overview of whole school planning to ensure that opportunities occur for pupils to develop their understanding and appreciation in this area;
- o the ordering and maintenance of resources;
- o organising staff training related to the subject; supporting staff in developing pupils' capabilities;
- o keeping up to date with relevant developments;
- o maintaining links with other schools in the local authority
- o holding meetings with the Headteacher and Governing body as appropriate.