

SMSVC & Values Policy



September 2018

At St Cuthbert's 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; demonstrate a commitment to serve God and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures within our city & the wider world.

The Department for Education (2014) state that there is a 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 originally set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister in 2014. These values fall into the following broad areas:

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

As a Catholic school we have always had a set of values which forms our school's mission and underpins and is integral to every aspect of the life of the school. These are based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and the promotion of Gospel values. St Cuthbert's school has adopted the diocesan Values and Virtues template which is at the heart of all we do in our school:



At St Cuthbert's School we actively promote these values by:

- Having them as a daily reminder in our school hall and around our school.
- Working with parents and Corpus Christi Parish to give the children in our care a knowledge of their faith and to guide them in the practice of their faith.
- Encouraging the growth of a community based upon Gospel values, where each member has the opportunity to explore their faith.
- Providing an environment where each child is valued as an individual and has the opportunity to develop to their full potential.
- Developing a community where every members' needs, talents and qualities are appreciated.
- Encouraging the development of a professional, motivated and mutually supportive staff who hold high expectations of our pupils.
- Setting and maintaining high standards of discipline, courtesy and general moral values which allow the whole school community to function effectively. Our aim is that each child can, in due course, take on a responsible role in society.
- Providing a non-sexist, non-racist atmosphere which engenders tolerance and respect for other races, religions and life-styles.
- Fostering links between home, school and parish for the benefit of our children.

To summarise, as a Catholic School we actively promote values, virtues and ethics that shape our pupils' character and moral perspective, through the teachings of the Church. Our continued focus on the Gospel values will give our pupils the necessary awareness of what it means to be a good citizen in Britain today, and embed in them the building blocks of a future successful and productive life.

Our Aims in providing an effective SMSVC (Spiritual; Moral; Social; Vocational & Cultural)

Education:

Spiritual Development

As a Catholic school we work diligently to grow our faith through our relationship with Corpus Christi Church and school. We ensure that children take part in church visits to celebrate Mass, Holy Communion, Holy Sacraments, carol services and holy celebrations throughout the churches calendar. We also offer time for the children to reflect on their faith and to celebrate the coming together of pupils and staff as one family. Our taught Religious Education equips children with a sense of belonging and an attitude to respect and love one another, regardless of faith and belief.

Throughout school life we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Follow the example of Jesus Christ in their daily lives.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings

- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

Moral Development

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

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- 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.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.

Social Development

As a Catholic 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.

Vocational Development

As a Catholic school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Demonstrate a commitment to the service of God
- Learn from people of the past and present who provide examples of life inspired by Jesus Christ.
- Reflect on their vocational role within the community now and in the future.

Cultural Development

As a Catholic 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.

Promoting British Values at St Cuthbert's Catholic School

Throughout our SMSVC provision we promote gospel values and by doing so we promote core British values. We do this in the following ways:

Democracy

At St Cuthbert's School we will:

- Provide pupils with a broad general knowledge of, and promote respect for, public institutions and services.
- Teach pupils how they can influence decision-making through the democratic process.
- Include in the curriculum information on the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain.
- Encourage pupils to become involved in decision-making processes and ensure they are listened to in school.
- Hold 'mock elections' so pupils learn how to argue and defend points of view e.g. when electing representatives to the School Council for each class; when electing house captains.
- Help pupils to express and present their views
- Model how perceived injustice can be peacefully challenged.

The Rule of Law

At St Cuthbert's School we will:

- Ensure school rules and expectations are clear and fair and that pupils understand the reasons for having rules.
- Help pupils to distinguish right from wrong.
- Help pupils to understand that living under the rule of law protects individuals.
- Teach pupils aspects of both civil and criminal law and discuss how this might differ from some religious laws.
- Develop approaches focused on reconciliation and justice to resolve conflicts.

Individual Liberty

At St Cuthbert's School we will:

- Support pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Encourage pupils to take responsibility for their behaviour, as well as knowing their rights.
- Implement a strong anti-bullying culture - as enshrined in our policies for Anti-Bullying and Behaviour.

Respect and Tolerance

At St Cuthbert's School we will:

- Promote respect for individual differences in all areas of learning and interaction.
- Help pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life.
- Challenge prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- Learn about religions different from that of our Catholic faith.
- Discuss differences between people, such as differences of family situations, such as looked-after children or young carers.

Guidelines

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social, vocational and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum.

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.

Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSVC 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 dedicated weekly SMSVC lessons 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 - e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc...

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.
- Links with Corpus Christi Parish.
- Links with Rwanda (BCPP)

Fundamental British Values:

The aims of St Cuthbert's School include:

- enabling students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enabling students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- to encourage students 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;

- enabling students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- to promote further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encouraging respect for other people; and
- encouraging respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Activities linked to promoting British Values

- Children commemorate Remembrance Day understanding the significance of the poppy and the importance of reconciliation.
- Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- Children debate and make decisions about their school through their school council.
- Children study the lives of Saints and the Values and Virtues that they have represented in real life situations.
- Children study Malala Yousafzai and her impact on people's views of equality and education. Linked to the Global need for education.
- Children study the teaching of Pope Francis and his message to the world and how Christians can apply this to their own lives.
- Children study Mother Teresa - how someone can devote their life to serving God and the needy.
- Children study Nelson Mandela and his influence on civil rights in South Africa.
- Children study Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement in the USA and the relevance to being eloquent and truthful in his speech.
- Children study the impact of Charities on society -local, national and international.
- To study works of art and how they reflect the different cultures of the world.
- To study Music from around the world and how they reflect and shape culture.
- To discuss the impact of a variety of Nobel Prize Winners.
- Children study local democracy in Britain to include an interview with a local councillor.
- Children campaign on a local issue writing to the local council on an issue which they feel is important in their community (in collaboration with a local school).
- Children commemorate Remembrance Day understanding the importance of reconciliation and the lessons to be learned from history (linked to work on Anne Frank).
- Children use opportunities to discuss British values as significant occasions or events arise e.g. A royal wedding, a general election etc. Children democratically select class representatives for their school council.
- Children study the suffragette movement and women rights.
- Children study democracy in Britain at a national level to include an interview with their MP (if available).
- Children study the history of Parliament and how it has changed over time, this will include a visit to the Houses of Parliament (school council).

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning, by the Head teacher and R.E Co-ordinator and R.E. Link Governor.
- Monitoring of SMSVC books by the Head teacher and R.E Co-ordinator, Liturgy Leaders and R.E. Link Governor.
- 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.
- Regular inclusion on SDP/SIP.

Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed in September 2019.