



## **Spiritual Moral Social and Culture (SMSC) Policy**

<b>Approved by: Headteacher</b>	<b>Melissa Gibbons</b>	<b>Date: August 2024</b>
<b>Approved by: Chair of Governors</b>	<b>Georgina Griffiths &amp; Jane Billington</b>	<b>Date: August 2024</b>
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	<b>August 2024</b>	
<b>Next review due by:</b>	<b>August 2025</b>	

Our school vision and values are built around the concept of joint success and achievements. All valued, all inspired to work together.

At Ash CE VC Primary 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 and a positive, caring attitude towards other people. We want our pupils to develop an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of British and world cultures.

All members of the school community are encouraged to develop into responsible citizens through the implementation of modern British Values. These are shared through the thoughtful and wide-ranging promotion of the children's SMSC development, enabling them to thrive in a supportive learning community.

### **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. Christian spirituality and Christian values and principles will be explored in all curriculum areas, especially in RE/Collective Worship, but the integrity and spirituality of pupils from other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored.

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. Pupils are taught explicitly that we are all unique members of the school community. They are taught how to restore relationships after any conflict and to value those around them.

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 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 our collective benefit. School and classroom rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward positive behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements. All pupils contribute to a class charter at the beginning of the year.

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 procurement of resources.

## **Responsibilities**

- 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 give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- To ensure that British Values are frequently and purposefully promoted  
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.
  - 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.
- Be able to resolve disagreements.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.
- Morally reflect beyond their own immediate experience, to national and international issues.

### **Social Development**

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

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Become aware of moral issues/ dilemmas as well as fostering a sense of responsibility and community values.
- Discuss and display expected standards of behaviour, manners and respect for others.
- Participate in a range of extra-curricular activities.
- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influenced individuals and society.
- Recognise different religions around the world and their cultural implications
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.
- Be aware of and celebrate cultural diversity.

### **Promoting British Values**

Ash CE VC School and Nursery actively promotes the fundamental British Values of:

- Democracy

- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

In promoting children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, we are able to actively promote British Values in ways that are appropriate to primary school children. For example, by exploring democracy through voting in school and the school council process, or by contributing to school rules and debating topical issues such as climate change, or the 'Black Lives Matter' movement.

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. SMSC links are made with class learning 'experiences.

Class discussions and circle time (this is a time when the class works together to discuss an issue or concern) will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
  - Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs.
  - Speak about difficult events, eg 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
- Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and celebrating our differences
- Agree and disagree
- Take turns and share equipment

- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

### **Links with the wider community**

- Visitors are welcomed into school
- Links with the local church are fostered and pupils attend services and share experiences with the church community.
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership.
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

### **Impact**

- Children are happy and value themselves and others as unique individuals.
- Children have the skills to collaborate critically, respectfully and creatively with each other and with a caring approach.
- Children are able to reflect upon their behaviour and can evaluate a situation, repairing it independently or with support.
- Children of all abilities achieve in all lessons. All children, including disadvantaged and children with SEND are given the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.
- Because children have developed a good understanding of British Values, they make a positive contribution as responsible citizens.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation Provision for SMSC**

- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings
- Audit of policies and Schemes of Work.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Audit of Collective Worship practice.