



# **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy**

**Kippax Ash Tree Primary School**

To be reviewed June 2017

## Definitions

### Spiritual Development

Pupils' spiritual development is shown by their:

- beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform **their perspective on life & their interest in & respect for different people's feelings & values**
- sense of **enjoyment** and **fascination** in learning about **themselves, others** and the **world around them**, including the intangible
- use of **imagination** and **creativity** in their learning
- willingness to **reflect** on their **experiences**

### Moral Development

Pupils' **moral development** is shown by their:

- ability to **recognise** the difference between **right** and **wrong**, and their readiness to **apply** this understanding **in their own lives**
- understanding of the **consequences of their actions**
- **interest in investigating**, and offering **reasoned** views about, **moral** and **ethical issues**

### Social Development

Pupils' **social development** is shown by their:

- **use** of a range of **social skills** in **different contexts**, including **working** and **socialising** with pupils from **different religious, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds**
- **willingness to participate** in a **variety of social settings, cooperating well with others** and being able to **resolve conflicts** effectively
- **interest in**, and understanding of, the way **communities** and societies **function** at a variety of levels

### Cultural

Pupils' cultural development is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their **own heritage**
- **willingness to participate** in, and **respond to**, for example, artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural **opportunities**
- interest in **exploring**, understanding of, and **respect for cultural diversity** and the extent to which they **understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity**, as shown by their **attitudes** towards **different religious, ethnic and socio-economic** groups in the **local, national and global communities**

## **Aims**

At Kippax Ash Tree Primary School, the children and their learning are at the very heart of every decision made. We aim to develop learners who are passionate, take ownership of their learning and are proud of their achievements.

The ethos of our school is such that all people who come into our school, whether staff, pupil, parent or visitor, are valued as individuals in their own right. They should set, and be entitled to expect from others, good standards of behaviour, marked by respect and responsibility.

The school will help the students to develop an inner discipline and will encourage pupils to make up their own minds and be ready to accept responsibility for what they do. They will grow through making choices and holding to the choices that they have made. They will want to be honest with themselves and with others.

## **Planning**

In planning lessons, teachers are aware of the need to consistently plan opportunities to develop a wide variety of spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs. A vast majority will be delivered through cross curricular activities as well as specific PSHE, RE and Circle Time activities.

## **Spiritual Development**

**At Kippax Ash Tree, we believe that spiritually aware pupils develop best when planned opportunities for spiritual development, in all subjects, can be seen across the school.**

**Children are also given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of spiritual experiences.**

Examples of experiences commonly regarded as spiritual include:

- Curiosity and mystery
- Awe and wonder
- Connection and belonging
- Heightened self-awareness
- Time to reflect
- Prayer and worship
- Deep feelings of what is felt to be ultimately important
- A sense of security, well-being, worth and purposefulness

### **Our school develops pupil spiritual development by:**

- Providing children with safe spaces to reflect, pray and discuss their emotions
- Allowing pupils opportunities to create their own prayers to share with others
- Building in time for reflection in lessons and also through philosophical thinking
- Creative lesson planning which promotes children's natural curiosity, imagination and love for learning
- Exploring a range of religions and their significant celebrations
- Inviting religious leaders into school to talk to children and share their experiences
- Allowing children to work with a wide range of faith organisations to improve the community in which they live

### **Moral Development**

#### **At Kippax Ash Tree, we believe that a morally aware pupil will develop a wide range of skills. These can include the following:**

- Distinguish right from wrong, based on knowledge of the moral codes of their own and other cultures
- Develop an ability to think through the consequences of their own and others' actions
- Have an ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements
- Ensure a commitment to personal values
- Have respect for others' needs, interests and feelings, as well as their own
- Develop a desire to explore their own and others' views, and an understanding of the need to review and re-assess their values, codes and principles in the light of experience

#### **Our school develops pupil moral development by:**

- Providing a clear moral code as a basis for behaviour which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school
- Promoting racial, religious and all other forms of equality
- Giving pupils opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values – for example, personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice, equality of opportunity, right and wrong
- Developing an open and safe learning environment in which pupils can express their views and practice moral decision making
- Rewarding expressions of moral insights and good behaviour
- Recognising and respecting the codes and morals of the different cultures represented in the school and wider community

- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions, for example, respect for property, care of the environment, and developing codes of behaviour, providing models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts and assemblies
- Promoting pupil voice through the school's Pupil Parliament, encouraging children to decide what is right and wrong in our school community
- Restorative practice – children are given time to reflect on behaviour and discuss with those involved how to move things forward positively
- Use of moral stories and value based assembly time

Teachers always discuss with their classes a code of conduct for the classroom based on the values held by the school. We teach the children to be aware of their own actions, take responsibility for their own bodies and encourage independence. We help the children to identify their feelings and think these through so that they are expressed in behaviour that is socially acceptable.

This is done through assemblies, circle time, Social Skills groups and SEAL/PSHE/Circle Time sessions. We are interested in the development of the whole child and will endeavour to raise their self-esteem through praise, stickers, 'The Golden File' and other means which highlight both academic and social achievements.

## **Social Development**

**At Kippax Ash Tree, we recognise that pupils who are becoming socially aware are likely to be developing the ability to:**

- Adjust to a range of social contexts by appropriate and sensitive behaviour
- Relate well to other people's social skills and personal qualities
- Work successfully, as a member of a group or team
- Share views and opinions with others
- Resolve conflicts maturely and appropriately
- Reflect on their own contribution to society
- Show respect for people, living things, property and the environment
- Exercise responsibility
- Understand how societies function and are organised in structures such as the family, the school
- Understand the notion of interdependence in an increasingly complex society

**Our school develops pupil social development by:**

- Identifying key values and principles on which school and community life is based
- Fostering a sense of community, with common, inclusive values
- Promoting racial, religious and other forms of equality
- Encouraging pupils to work co-operatively
- Encouraging pupils to recognise and respect social differences and similarities
- Providing positive experiences to reinforce our values as a school community – for example, through assemblies, team building activities, residential experiences, school productions
- Helping pupils develop personal qualities which are valued in a civilised society, for example, thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, interdependence, self-respect and an awareness of others' needs
- Providing opportunities for engaging in the democratic process and participating in community life
- Encouraging children to take an active role in improving their local community through collaboration with other institutions (religious and social)
- Providing opportunities for pupils to exercise leadership and responsibility
- Providing positive and effective links with the world of work and the wider community
- Promoting the acceptance and engagement of the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

## **Cultural Development**

**At Kippax Ash Tree, we believe children should be made aware of the diversity of other cultures both within modern Britain and throughout the world. This can be done through music, PE, art and many other curriculum areas and is evident in our Foundation subject planning and throughout the school calendar.**

Pupils who are becoming culturally aware are likely to be developing some or all of the following characteristics:

- An ability to reflect on important questions of meaning and identity
- An interest in exploring the relationship between human beings and the environment
- An understanding and appreciation of the cultural influences which have shaped their heritage

- A desire to participate positively in artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- Respect for every religion and culture

### **Our school develops pupils' cultural development by:**

- Extending pupils' knowledge and use of cultural imagery and language
- Encouraging them to think about special events in life and how they are celebrated
- Recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents; providing opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, drama, music, art, crafts and other cultural events and encouraging pupils to reflect on their significance
- Reinforcing the school's cultural links through developing partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend pupils' cultural awareness, for example, theatre, museum and gallery visits
- Auditing the quality and nature of opportunities for pupils to extend their cultural development across the curriculum through collaboration with the subject leaders of PSHE, RE, MFL, Art, Music, Pupil Parliament

## **Pupil Voice**

The term 'Pupil Voice' describes how pupils give their input to what happens within the school and classroom.

Our desire is for pupils to know that their expertise, opinions and ideas are valued in all aspects of school life. Pupil Voice permeates all levels of our work together, from pupils participating in small group, classroom conversations to students establishing procedures, events and contributing to the overarching ethos of the school. All decisions and actions go through our Pupil parliament.