"Choose the Right Path"

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

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Date:	**4th November 2026**
Review date[2]:	**November 2028**

Introduction

At St James' Church of England Infant and Nursery School, our vision, "Choose the Right Path", underpins all aspects of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Through our Christian vision and values, we nurture pupils to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually, enabling them to become courageous advocates who contribute positively to their communities.

The National curriculum has two aims:

- The school curriculum should aim to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve
- The school curriculum should aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and expectations of life

These two aims reinforce each other: SMSC plays a significant part in the ability to learn and to achieve, and all the curriculum areas have a contribution to make to a child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Christian values, principles and spirituality will be explored throughout the curriculum. The integrity and spirituality of 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 valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. Children 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.

Children should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules to ensure a happy school. The school rules reflect, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupil's positive attitudes, work and achievements.

All curriculum areas should seek to use resources drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in the teacher's planning and learning resources.

Aims

- 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 child's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, ability and background
- To ensure that children know what is expected of them and why
- To give each child a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience
- To enable children to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- To enable children 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 child the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility
- To foster links between home and school and develop a partnership with parents in the

education of their children.

SMSC and Personal Development

SMSC development forms a key part of the school's Personal Development curriculum. Through enrichment opportunities, pupil leadership, collective worship, educational visits, clubs, outdoor learning, charitable work and wider curriculum experiences, pupils develop confidence, resilience, respect, responsibility and an understanding of the world around them.

Learning and Teaching

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

Spiritual Development:

- 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:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- Recognise the challenge of religious teaching particularly that of Jesus
- 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
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgements

Social Development:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Learn about service in the school and wider community
- Begin to understand the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged

Cultural Development:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society
- Recognise Christianity as a world-wide faith
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment

SMSC and Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), Religious Education and Collective Worship make significant contributions to pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development. Through these areas of learning, pupils develop their understanding of healthy relationships, emotional wellbeing, personal responsibility, respect for others and making informed choices.

Children are supported to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to thrive in modern Britain. They learn to understand and manage emotions, build positive relationships, keep themselves safe, recognise the importance of physical and mental health and demonstrate respect for people whose lives, beliefs, cultures and families may be different from their own.

These opportunities support pupils to become confident, respectful and responsible members of society, prepared for the opportunities and challenges they may encounter both now and in the future.

SMSC in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage and is embedded throughout daily practice and provision. Through high-quality interactions, play-based learning, storytelling, exploration and opportunities for reflection, children develop a growing understanding of themselves, others and the world around them.

Children are encouraged to develop curiosity, independence, resilience and a sense of belonging. They learn to take turns, share, show kindness, respect differences and begin to understand right and wrong through positive relationships and consistent expectations.

The school's Christian vision and values underpin the nurturing environment provided for all children, enabling them to develop confidence, self-esteem and an appreciation of the uniqueness and worth of every individual.

Cultural Capital and Enrichment

At St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School, we recognise the importance of providing rich and varied experiences that broaden pupils' horizons and enhance their understanding of the world. Through our curriculum, educational visits, visitors, outdoor learning, collective worship, extra-curricular activities, arts experiences, musical opportunities and community partnerships, pupils are provided with a wide range of opportunities that contribute to their SMSC development.

These experiences enable children to develop their interests and talents, appreciate diversity, engage with their local community and gain an understanding of life beyond their immediate experiences. We strive to ensure that all pupils, regardless of background or circumstance, have access to experiences that build cultural capital and support them in becoming informed, responsible and active citizens.

Promoting British Values

Through our Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural programme, we will:

- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Understand the importance of rules, fairness and responsibility
- Encourage pupils 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
- Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of, and respect for, public institutions and services in England
- Encourage respect for other people
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of, and respect for, their own and other cultures

British Value	Examples at St James'
Democracy	School Council, pupil voice, voting
Rule of Law	Class rules, behaviour expectations, restorative approaches
Individual Liberty	Making choices, expressing opinions safely
Mutual Respect	Respecting others' views and differences
Tolerance	Learning about different faiths, cultures and families

The school actively promotes equality, diversity and inclusion. Through the curriculum and wider opportunities, pupils learn about respect, difference and belonging and develop an age-appropriate understanding of the protected characteristics defined within the Equality Act 2010.

Online Safety and Digital Citizenship

SMSC development includes:

- Online relationships
- Respectful communication online
- Digital wellbeing
- Recognising misinformation
- Safe use of technology

Through the Computing curriculum, RSHE curriculum and wider safeguarding provision, pupils learn how to stay safe online, communicate respectfully, develop healthy digital habits, identify trustworthy information and use technology responsibly. These experiences contribute significantly to pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Inclusion

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We believe that all pupils have a right to experience a

happy caring environment in which they can learn that people are not all the same. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with SEND and those who are disadvantaged, have full access to opportunities that support their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The impact of SMSC will be monitored through:

- Learning walks
- Pupil discussions
- Collective worship monitoring
- Curriculum monitoring
- Governor visits
- Personal Development evaluations
- Behaviour and attendance information
- Pupil voice
- Subject leader monitoring
- SIAMS self-evaluation activities

Implementation of Policy

The implementation of this policy and the planning and teaching of SMSC is the responsibility of all staff.

Related policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Behaviour Policy
- RSHE Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Equality Information
- Collective Worship Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy