



Caring, Courageous, Inspired

Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural Development policy

At Christ Church C of E VC Infant school we recognise that the personal development of children, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. As a Church of England school we promote beliefs, and values that are understood and interpreted within a Christian context as well as the statutory British values. We aim to provide an education that provides children with opportunities to learn from the Christian tradition and to explore and develop:

- Their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness
- High standards of personal behaviour
- A positive caring attitude towards other people
- A courageous attitude to stand up for their and others' rights
- An understanding of their social and cultural traditions
- An appreciation of, and respect for the diversity and richness of cultures other than their own.

Guidelines

- Opportunities will be planned in each area of the curriculum to contribute to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Christian spirituality and Christian values and principles will be explored in curriculum areas, especially in RE / collective worship, but the integrity and spirituality of children from other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and children will be given access to alternative views.
- British values will be explored in both curriculum time and Collective Worship.
- All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing Christian love and respect for children and their families.
- The school community will be a place where children 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.
- Children will learn to differentiate between right and wrong. They will be taught and encouraged to value themselves and others.
- Children will 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 there will be opportunities to celebrate children's work and achievements.
- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be rooted in Christian values, such as forgiveness, thankfulness, peace and trust
- All curriculum areas will use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be evidenced in teacher's planning.

Spiritual Development

Aims

In order to foster spiritual development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value of each child
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them;

- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);
- Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life;
- Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth;
- Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others.

Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring:

- Opportunities for spiritual development will be pro-actively planned into the curriculum and actively encouraged in all areas of school life;
- Collective worship will celebrate the love of God for every individual and provide opportunities for children to respond to this. The children will also explore other faiths and the celebrations linked to them
- The school building and outdoor environment will provide appropriate spaces for silence, stillness and prayer (e.g. in reflection areas, and the spiritual garden)
- That children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight will be fostered through the creative arts and interactive multi-sensory teaching strategies;
- That children's moral development will be linked to spiritual development through strategies such as windows, mirrors and doors and Discovery R.E.
- Those children will be given as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God.

Moral Development

Aims

To foster moral development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Recognise the difference between right and wrong and begin to understand how Christian values inform a particular perspective on moral choices;
- Understand how our moral choices can affect the lives of others;
- Be able to work together to agree codes of behaviour that are appropriate for our school community;
- Understand the centrality of forgiveness and reconciliation in the life and culture of our school;
- Begin to engage with big questions concerning morality and ethical issues in the wider community and in the world, and to realise that each of us has a responsibility to work for justice.

Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring that:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life are rooted in Christian values, such as justice, service, perseverance, courage and truthfulness.
- Opportunities for moral development will be pro-actively planned into the curriculum and actively encouraged in all areas of school life;
- Our Christian values are shared with members of our school community through our website and school documentation.
- Collective worship and assemblies celebrate practical demonstrations of Christian values lived out in the life of the school, local, and wider community (Pupil of the week and the Wonka lunch time awards, House points, Head teachers award);
- Our behaviour policy makes clear that every child is treated fairly and is always offered the opportunity for a fresh start;
- Parents and carers are made aware, through our website and other documentation, of our school's expectations regarding behaviour, as well as the rewards and sanctions that we operate;
- Children are made aware of moral and ethical issues in the national and international context through, for example, representatives from charities and NGOs being invited into school to talk about their work;
- The School Council is fully involved, alongside teachers, senior leaders and governors in reviewing the impact of our Christian values on the behaviour, culture and ethos of our school.

Social Development

Aims

To foster social development, the school aims to provide opportunities for children to:

- Build relationships founded upon the Christian values (e.g. trust, honesty, forgiveness and service);
- Be equipped to become responsible citizens who recognise the importance of service and working for the 'common good';
- Feel a sense of genuine pride in the school and their membership of it

Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, we pursue these aims by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be rooted in Christian values, such as friendship, service, generosity and compassion
- Opportunities for social development will be explicitly planned into the curriculum and in all areas of school life;
- Collective worship and assemblies will celebrate and reward practical demonstrations of our Christian values such as, service to the community, and acts of friendship and generosity, particularly shown towards children facing difficulties or challenges (e.g. pupil of the week, celebration assemblies)
- Strong mutually supportive links will be maintained and developed with the local church
- The school will provide pastoral support to children or family members facing challenges;
- Our school community strives to be fully inclusive
- The School Council is trained and supported to play an active part with staff and governors in monitoring and evaluating the social cohesiveness of the school community;
- The Senior Leadership Team prioritises support and engagement with networks (by attending conferences run by the diocese and cluster meetings)
- There is active engagement with parents and carers through the 'open door policy' and active support of PTA activities.

Cultural Development

Aims

To foster social development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Gain a knowledge and understanding of the values from their own culture, heritage, traditions and an appreciation of how they have evolved and developed over time
- Develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the cultures of those with whom they interact day by day, as well as other cultures represented in the UK
- Develop knowledge of Christian and other faith heritages, visits to the local church and the other religious buildings and by exploring their relationship to it.
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of all the cultural diversity of Christianity
- Understand the relationship between religious belief and culture through a creative, challenging and interactive RE curriculum
- Understand what it means to be part of a community characterised by openness, hospitality and an eagerness to learn from one another.

Teaching and learning

Through teaching and learning, we pursue our aims by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be rooted in Christian values, such as friendship, generosity, and creativity.
- The curriculum will be delivered using creative and imaginative teaching strategies which allow individual gifts and talents to flourish;
- A range of art forms will be used to teach children about Christian heritage and tradition, and also the heritages and traditions of other faiths;
- Children are given opportunities to take part in and respond to cultural and artistic enterprises
- Children explore current affairs and different interpretations of events by the media;
- Children explore the ways in which cultural, racial, and religious prejudice can take root and learn how to recognise this and other forms of discrimination as well as ways to counter it;

- Whole school projects which celebrate diversity within the local and wider community feature in our curriculum;

Monitoring and Evaluation of SMSCD at Christ Church Infant School

SMSCD is the responsibility of **all** staff and governors, as it will have a fundamental impact on the quality and nature of the education offered by our school.

1. The lead teacher with responsibility for evaluating the effectiveness of SMSCD are Mrs Martin, Mrs Helm & Mrs Jenkins
2. The SMSCD lead teacher will ensure that our current policy is regularly reviewed, up to date, and a true reflection of practise in this school;
3. The SMSCD lead teacher has the responsibility for ensuring that all staff, parents and governors understand how the school interprets SMSCD and to ensure that regular, appropriate professional development is provided;
4. The SMSCD lead teacher will liaise with the SLT, the Ethos Committee of the governing body and the School Council to monitor and evaluate the impact of opportunities for SMSCD across the curriculum.

This will be achieved by:

- a) Auditing curriculum policies and schemes of work to ensure that the school's values are for curriculum design;
- b) Monitoring of lesson plans and the quality of teaching and learning;
- c) Evaluating the impact of SMSCD provision through work scrutiny, reflection journals, and pupil conferencing;
- d) Input at staff meetings, school governors' meetings and parents' forum to maintain the profile of SMSCD in the school;
- e) Sharing good practice from within our school with other schools where appropriate;
- f) Ensuring that SMSCD development is a priority on the school improvement plan.

Agreed by Governors: T4 2016-17