

# **St Mary Abbots Church of England Primary School**



## **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Education Policy 2023-24**

**At St Mary Abbots School we grow little seeds into mighty trees. Our children's development is rooted in our Christian ethos and values. We ensure that our children experience learning of the highest standard and are nurtured to flourish in all things across the curriculum; as well as physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.**

# Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education and promoting fundamental British Values

## Introduction

At St Mary Abbots School we grow little seeds into mighty trees. Our children's development is rooted in our Christian ethos and values. We ensure that our children experience learning of the highest standard and are nurtured to flourish in all things across the curriculum; as well as physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

Our approach to SMSC is rooted in this very vision.

We want our pupils to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens. Guided by our Christian vision and values, we are committed to providing an environment that:

- Enables children to learn and develop to their full potential
- Ensures respect, forgiveness, empathy for others and acceptance of differences
- Encourages independence, resilience, cooperation and collaborative working
- Ensures pupils develop self-discipline and take responsibility for their actions

In order to facilitate and achieve this, we will provide a curriculum that:

- engages, excites, is meaningful and rigorous
- stimulates questioning and challenge
- is aspirational, creative, flexible and responsive
- prioritises spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual and physical development
- educates citizens for today and beyond

Our 6 Christian values (Friendship, Peace, Forgiveness, Justice, Thankfulness and Hope); our Stay on Green behaviour system, our PSHE curriculum, our RE curriculum and the enrichment opportunities we provide, are all important aspects of SMSC at SMA.

We recognise the importance of the academic, personal development and well-being of every child in our school. This includes recognising the importance of providing a range of opportunities for our pupils to respond to, that supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development with an understanding and an overview of teaching the Equality Act (2010) and including global education themes.

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

(NB whilst each dimension is outlined separately there is a great deal of overlap between the four areas).

### **Spiritual development:**

Spiritual development is concerned with developing the non-material aspects of life, focusing on personal insight, values, meaning and purpose. Beliefs that help provide perspective on life may be rooted in a religion, but equally may not. Children explore the fundamental British Value of respecting the values and beliefs of others.

The Spiritual development of all our children is addressed through the Christian vision and values of the school. As a church school we address spiritual development through prayer, reflection, Christian worship, celebration of Christian festivals and learning about those of other faiths, reading and reflection on the Bible in collective worship, RE and across the wider curriculum.

We are committed to:

- Celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our pupils bring as part of their family/culture heritage and to building an awareness of and respect for others' spiritual and religious beliefs
- Fostering common human values and building spiritual capacities to promote self-worth
- Self-esteem and valuing others
- Helping our pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on "big questions"
- Developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a lifelong love of learning

***For further information on the school's approach to spiritual development, please see our Spirituality Policy.***

### **Moral development**

Moral development is about knowing what is right and wrong and acting on it accordingly. Moral development is about personal and societal values, understanding the reasons for them and airing and understanding disagreements. This is embedded throughout the school community.

We are committed to:

- Be truthful and honest
- Respect the rights and property of others, their opinions and customs, even when they are different from our own
- Make responsible and reasoned decisions relating to moral issues
- Understand their impact on and help others
- Solve differences of opinion in non-violent ways using the principles of restorative practice

***For further information on how this relates to our behaviour system and our Green Rules, please see our Behaviour Policy. Please also see our PSHE curriculum overview.***

### **Social development**

Social development is concerned with the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society. It also involves growth in knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects.

Social development in school involves pupils working together effectively, relating well to adults and participating in the local community.

It also includes the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

We are committed to:

- Fostering the skill and qualities of team building through the development of self-confidence, co-operation, sensitivity to others, reliability, initiative and understanding – the classroom environment is the basis for this
- Providing an environment where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society – our School Council and Eco Ambassadors contribute to this
- Teaching the Equalities Act through our curriculum

### **Cultural development**

Cultural development shows pupils understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and experiencing a range of cultural activities (art, theatre, travel, concerts). Children develop the fundamental British Value of understanding and tolerance regarding the diversity of cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the World by:

- Promoting an appreciation of our own cultural tradition/s and encouraging an appreciation of other peoples' cultural traditions
- Celebrating the richness of culture and tradition
- Weaving global education themes through our curriculum

Our children experience an extensive and ambitious enrichment programme. Through visits to galleries, places of worship, theatre productions, concerts, and museums, amongst other opportunities such as workshops, after school clubs, performing and school journey, our children are exposed to a broad range of culture.

***For further examples of how we support the children's cultural development, please see our whole school Enrichment Map.***

### **British Values**

St Mary Abbots School is committed to serving our community and recognises the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the society in which we live. We also understand the vital role we have in ensuring that our children are prepared for life in modern Britain and are taught what they need to be protected from radicalisation.

At St Mary Abbots School it is clearly set out in our Equality Objectives that no member or group within our school community will experience discrimination relating to the protected characteristics set out in the Equalities Act 2010. Our staff are dedicated to promoting equality and to reinforcing British Values to our children, through our ethos and curriculum.

We teach and celebrate the following British Values:

- **Democracy**
- **Rule of Law**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **Mutual Respect**
- **Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs**

Our PSHE curriculum is central to teaching the children about British Values but the wider life of the school also serves as an important space to explore and celebrate these values e.g. through collective worship and enrichment opportunities.

### **Monitoring Processes**

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by the senior leadership team, who report to governors about the effectiveness of the policy on request.

**Policy reviewed: December 2023**

**Policy next reviewed: December 2025**