



POLICY: Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Subject Leader: Gregor Smith

Our Mission

It is our aim to enable every member of our school family to flourish and live life in all its fullness by:

Teaching a broad and balanced curriculum, holistically nurturing and developing our children, helping those in need through loving service, confronting injustice in our world and caring for creation.

Introduction

Promoting the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is seen as a significant responsibility for all schools as evidenced in the ongoing attention these areas are given in successive Ofsted inspection frameworks and evaluation schedules. In Church of England Schools SMSC is widely regarded as an area of vital importance and good quality provision in this area is seen as a key hallmark of a distinctively Christian school. At St Peter's Church of Primary School promoting SMSC is also seen as part of the outworking of our School Vision as Jesus said "I have come in order to have life – life in all its fullness."

The Religious Education curriculum and worship at St Peter's Church of England Primary School is the place where this excellence and distinctiveness is reflected most clearly. However, SMSC development is a vein that can be traced throughout the life of the school.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development at St Peter's is distinctive because of the Christian faith and beliefs that underpin the school. The three persons of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit are inextricably woven throughout the whole curriculum and especially in the areas of SMSC.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual Development is the concern to develop the most distinctive and desirable capacities of the human person, i.e. those capacities that, above all, distinguish human beings from other living creatures. It is a concern which goes beyond what a pupil can know and do and relates to what sort of person they are and are becoming.

Pupils' spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and nonmaterial wellbeing.

Spiritual Development at St Peter's enriches and encourages our children's journey towards a discovery and deeper understanding of our 'in most being', God our creator and the wonder of the environment around us.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful." Ps 139 v 13-14

Opportunities for spiritual development will be encountered in the following ways in the life of St Peter's School, through the discrete teaching of R.E. and PSHE and through worship.



Through:

- deep thinking in exploring challenging questions and issues
- being calm and peaceful - reflecting from within exploring faith – both your own and someone else's
- knowing yourself – as known and loved by God and unique and special to Him
- accepting and understanding differences exploring belief and how an individual's beliefs impact on their living
- worship – opportunity to explore prayer and worship from a variety of Christian traditions
- community – valuing one another in community and fellowship
- developing gifts of imagination and creativity

Moral Development

Pupils' moral development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and the will to do what is right. They are able and willing to reflect on the consequences of their actions and learn how to forgive themselves and others. They develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, qualities and attitudes they need in order to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.

Our strapline is 'flourishing together'. We want to ensure all children have life in all its fullness by flourishing together. The issue isn't cultivating moral literacy; it's cultivating moral identity. It's making these values integral to the self, so that doing what's right becomes a reflex, and so children are strongly motivated to do what's right even when it conflicts with other needs and wants. Our six chosen values, one per half term, need to be consistently promoted throughout the whole life of the school.

Moral development at St Peter's allows children opportunities to explore issues from a wide range of viewpoints but underpinning all investigation, discussion, reflection and evaluation are the teachings of Jesus Christ, offering pupils a foundation stone on which to build their lives. The voice of Christianity is heard clearly throughout.

"Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me" Psalm 31:2-4

Opportunities for moral development are encountered in the following ways in the life of the St Peter's School.

Through:

- developing a sense of right and wrong based on Christian teaching - through teaching and the consistent application of our behaviour policy
- aligning behaviour and attitudes in the light of Christian teaching – through teaching and the consistent application of our behaviour policy
- being able to recognise expectations
- considering the values of *Responsibility, Joy, Love, Forgiveness, Truth* and *Courage* by which we live and the ways in which they are based on the Bible



- considering the individuals rights and responsibilities which will include justice and fairness for themselves and others
- In R.E. PSHE and worship, through asking questions such as: What motivates me? Who do I want to please by the choices I make?

Social Development

Pupils' social development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of families and communities (local, national and global), and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good. They display a sense of belonging and an increasing willingness to participate. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of their communities.

Social development at St Peter's develops children's understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice

*"May the Lord make your **love** increase and overflow for **each other** and for everyone else"*
1Thessalonians 3: 11-12

Opportunities for social development are encountered in the following ways in the life of St Peter's School.

Through:

- understanding and valuing self and others
- being aware of own and others emotions and feelings and how to respond to different emotions
- building relationships between different communities and through supporting a diverse range of local charities
- understanding and acceptance of difference
- talking to, listening with and cooperating with others
- consideration of own and others rights, responsibilities and aspirations
- appreciation of appropriate behaviours and social conventions

Cultural Development

Pupils' cultural development involves pupils acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences. They acquire a respect for their own culture and that of others, an interest in others' ways of doing things and curiosity about differences. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture. We want to expose our children to more diverse expression of culture, race and identity to make them fully aware of our wonderful world that God has created and how it is developing and diversifying.

Cultural development at St Peter's provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide multi-cultural faith and appreciation of the diversity of beliefs and cultures across the world.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus"



Galatians 3:28

Opportunities for cultural development may be encountered in these ways in the life of St Peter's School.

Through:

learning about others, accepting and valuing other traditions and celebrations

- developing an awareness of one's own culture and transition and change in it
- exploring the diversity of cultures within Britain
- understanding the contexts in which people express their beliefs and identity
- openness to other beliefs and cultural differences
- promoting an understanding of Christianity from a global perspective which may include encounters with people, literature, the creative and expressive arts and resources from differing culture – through our annual multi-cultural week.

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body	Caroline Whittingham
Date	January 2021
Review Date	January 2024