



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Our Rational 2022-23

Definition

Everyone who works in school is responsible for promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural values to our children.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school. We create the ethos by teaching and modelling positive attitudes and values and by giving the children opportunities to experience and develop these attitudes for themselves.

Principles

The four different elements of SMSC together help to develop children's learning about what are good and positive ways of thinking and behaving. This is crucial for individual pupils to be able to develop a feeling of positivity about themselves and others. This in turn impacts on the way the child will interact positively in society as a whole as they grow.

We believe it is the heart of what education is all about — helping pupils grow and develop as people; creating children who understand themselves and others and therefore are able to work in harmony with those who are different to themselves.

The greatest examples the children have in school are the teachers and support staff who spend the most time with the children. Their constant role modelling of SMSC values with each other and the children create positive relationships. This is the key to SMSC being successfully taught because it is all about how we chose to react to what is going on around us.

Practise

SMSC has a dedicated assembly slot and children's attention is drawn to the ideas and teaching of each area of development. This is delivered through our love of books and linked into cultural, religious or social events taking place in our community, country or worldwide.

To focus as a school morally, all classes share the same rules to ensure consistency across the school and to support transition through year groups and across key stage phases. Teachers ensure that learning opportunities for moral development are brought out of the many literacy opportunities, through classic fairy stories to modern children's animation films. We want our children to succeed academically and to master the English language that they might make the best of the opportunities for a successful and fulfilled life. Alongside this we want them to be decent human beings who strengthen the community in which they chose to live.

It is our desire to embed within the children a moral compass so that they can understand right from wrong and the need to make the right choices. This understanding that the things they do impact on the lives of others for good or for bad is a life lesson that has to be learnt by all.

To give them real opportunities to develop positive working relationships we make sure that during lessons different grouping opportunities are given to encourage social development. However we find the greatest challenge to positive social development is at Playtime and so we train key children into Play Leaders through a series of workshops. These children are taught how to deal with the common playtime relationship issues, sorting out both moral and social situations using a pack of cards that they created with step by step problem solving. This enables them to demonstrate leadership and empathy, perseverance and commitment and gives them opportunity to deal with a whole host of feelings from frustration to joy!

The Play Leaders see their role as one of responsibility and commitment to the school community. This aspect of social development is also followed by Members of Whitehall Parliament who listen and reflect on the views of their class mates and seek to implement change into school life for the good of all. Preparing them with the skills needed for good citizenship and leadership in the future. To develop the awareness that a community needs people to be involved in its running, children are given jobs around school, whether as class monitor, collecting, distributing or sharing out equipment – or as a fruit monitor or class library monitor to develop the idea of a joint responsibility and commitment to the community of which they are part.

Having such a wide range of ethnic diversity in school we are in a great situation to be able to help children develop their spiritual and cultural awareness of faiths and cultures around them. We make sure that festivals celebrated by the children are celebrated in school and that children understand and know what is so special about those days and how they are similar and different to their own culture. We have made sure through RE that landmark religious buildings in the local community are demystified by visits and celebrated through those children who worship there. All of these experiences help children at Whitehall to develop empathy for others that we hope will develop into a tolerance for beliefs not their own. We want to continue to celebrate the richness and diversity of people that make Whitehall.

So in a nutshell all of the signposting of SMSC is for the purpose of developing what the Government term Positive British Values. These values are in our vision statement to ROAR (Respect, wOnder, Ambition, Radiance) are part of the fabric of the school.

*Our School is founded on the values of **Respect, wOnder, Ambition and Radiance**. By showing **RESPECT** to the teachers and for their role in inspiring, motivating, encouraging and educating, the children are able to learn. Showing respect for each other's views, opinions, ideas and strengths means that children are also able to learn from each other. Respect for the diversity of the school community, of their friends and of their teachers means that the children are able to learn and begin to appreciate the **WONDER** of the world and its people. This widening knowledge and developing understanding of what is out there enables children to have **AMBITION** as they see the excitement and variety of opportunities for their future. These positive values and experiences create a well-being in the children that **RADIATES** out through their positive and engaging attitude to life as a learning opportunity.*

We can all make a difference in each other's life by the way we treat each other - which is why the first day of each new school year focuses staff on the C.A.R.E. that is needed to wards other members of staff (Character, Ambition, Respect, Empathy).

SMSC helps all of us to learn positive ways of engaging fully with life so that it becomes an exciting and purposeful experience and something of worth that we can pass on to the children in our care.