



Whitehall Nursery and Infant School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Definition

At Whitehall the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is the responsibility of everyone – staff, irrespective of role or level of responsibility, children, parents and governors.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values.

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour, Rewards and British Values Policies.

Principles

S.M.S.C. development is crucial for individual pupils and it is crucial for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about - helping pupils grow and develop as people. This is why the development of relationships between all school staff and children is crucial to their academic development. These relationships will be characterised by mutual respect, by positive attitudes, by the willingness to listen and be listened to and by the valuing of all pupils. These attitudes will flow over into the relationship the school has with parents, governors and visitors to our school.

S.M.S.C. development is cross curricular and promotes the aims and principles of the policies for PHSE/SEAL, RE, Equal Opportunities, Pastoral Care, Behaviour and Disability Equality Scheme and School Accessibility Plan. These policies all underpin the Curriculum model of putting the child at the centre of all that we do.

It is an expectation at our school that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the S.M.S.C. development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g. discussion, reflection, group work, circle time etc.

Spiritual Development

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. Along side this we want them to learn about God and the benefits of having a relationship with their creator. As their curiosity about themselves and the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop knowledge of feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs and begin to explore how all these things can shape their own inner lives and non-material wellbeing. At Whitehall spiritual development leads towards the understanding of self, others and the world around them.

Aims for Spiritual Development

- The ability to listen and be still
- The ability to reflect
- The ability to sense wonder and mystery in the world
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships

Objectives for Spiritual Development

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- To develop the skill to use all of ones senses
- To develop imagination
- To encourage times for quiet reflection throughout the school day
- To develop individual self confidence
- To immerse the pupils in different cultures and faiths

Moral Development

Pupils are taught the need for a common code so that everyone can feel physically and emotionally safe and free to learn. Acquiring this understanding enables them to develop a concern for others and the will to do what is right rather than a fear of sanctions or consequences. Understanding what is right and wrong so that they can develop the ability to make judgements and learn how to forgive themselves and others. This helps them to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour and to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.

Aims for Moral Development

- Learn the rules and ethos of Whitehall
- Understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions
- The ability to distinguish between right and wrong
- The ability to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions
- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions

Objectives for Moral Development

- To tell the truth
- To respect the rights and property of others
- To help others less fortunate than themselves
- To be considerate to others
- To take responsibility of own actions
- To exercise self discipline
- To develop high expectations and a positive attitude
- To conform to rules and regulations promoting order for the good of all

Social Development

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local and wider community. At Whitehall we help children to realise the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group and the responsibility and cooperation that is needed in such relationships for the common good. We create an environment where pupils have a sense of belonging and an increasing willingness

to participate. We give our children responsibility and leadership opportunities so that they can develop the skills needed to be able to serve others.

Aims for Social Development

- Relate positively to others
- Participate fully and take responsibility in class and school
- Use appropriate behaviour across a range of situations
- Work cooperatively with others
- Use own initiative responsibly
- Understand our place in our family, school and society

Objectives for Social Development

- To share emotions such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear and reverence
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others
- To work as part of a group
- To interact positively across a range of social situations, e.g. after school clubs, sports activities, visits, trips, etc
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a part of a caring community
- To show care and consideration for others e.g. sharing and turn taking
- To realise that every individual can do something well and have something to offer

Cultural Development

We want pupils to acquire an understanding of the cultural traditions around them and the wider world and to be able to appreciate and respond to a variety of cultural experiences in and out of school. We teach pupils to respect their own culture and that of others, and to develop an interest in the ways others do things by encouraging curiosity about differences. At Whitehall pupils begin to develop the knowledge, understanding and attitudes needed to appreciate and contribute to culture.

Aims for Cultural Development

- Develop a sense of belonging and pride in pupils' own culture
- Respond positively to cultural events
- Share different cultural experiences
- Respect and understand different cultural traditions
- Develop an interest in the traditions of this countries Christian society alongside the contribution of other cultures

Objectives for Cultural Development

- To develop an awareness and appreciation of the Arts, i.e. Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Literature etc. through experience
- To develop a love for learning
- To develop an understanding of the cultures and beliefs, within our community
- To become aware of other ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British society, and the world beyond
- To develop the ability to value these independently

General Aims for S.M.S.C Development

We aim:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and within the community
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- To promote respect and consideration for differences in gender, race, religion
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to begin to equip them with life skills that will help them to be able to be a good citizen
- To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self respect and self confidence
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities
- To foster the self-worth of conforming to rules because it is right and not because of fear of sanctions or for rewards

Assessment

Informal assessment is primarily through observation of pupil behaviour, the views that pupils express, and through discussion with staff. Lesson observations, book trawls and learning walks will all have an SMSC element of focus to ensure it is being delivered in lessons and given weight through interactive class displays. Parents will receive a general comment on the end of year report to reflect their child's SMSC development. Children will complete an 'all about me' booklet at the beginning of each year group and an end of year questionnaire to see what they have learnt and discovered about SMSC values throughout the year.

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