

# **SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL, VOCATIONAL and CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

## **School Mission Statement**

*St Joseph's Catholic Primary School aims to be a centre of Gospel Values where children learn about themselves, the world about them and the God who made them.*

### **Introduction:**

At St. Joseph's we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, as well as their calling to proclaim Jesus Christ, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of their cultures. Developing every human's mind, body and soul is fundamental to the purpose of Catholic education.

The National curriculum has two aims:

- The school curriculum should aim to provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and to achieve
- The school curriculum should aim to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and expectations of life

These two aims reinforce each other. SMVSC plays a significant part in ability to learn and to achieve. All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, vocational, social and cultural development.

The Catholic 'Gospel Values' rooted in the Beatitudes, principles and spirituality will be explored throughout the curriculum. The integrity and spirituality of other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and pupils will be given access to alternative views.

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. Children should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.

Children should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. The school rules reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in the teacher's planning and learning resources.

### **The Aims of SMVSC:**

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMVSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school
- To ensure that a child's education is set within the context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background
- To ensure that children know what is expected of them and why
- To give each child a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience
- To enable children to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- To enable children to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society
- To give each child the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility
- To enable children to understand how to proclaim Jesus Christ to others

## **Teaching and Learning:**

Spiritual education signifies what we believe about the meaning and purpose of life. It is everything about existence on this planet that is beyond the material.

Spiritual Development - as a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable children to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life

Moral education is what we believe about the purpose and meaning of life. It is the principles and codes we live by which guide our choices between right and wrong.

Moral Development - as a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable children:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- Recognise the challenge of religious teaching particularly that of Jesus
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
- Distinguish between right and wrong
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgements

Social education is our way of relating to self and others which is influenced by our spirituality and morality.

Social Development - as a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Learn about service in the school and wider community
- Begin to understand the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged

Cultural education is centred round the ways in which we do things; the rites, rituals, customs and practices which develop over time within communities. It gives expression to the school's spirituality, morality and social values.

Cultural Development – as a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society
- Recognise Christianity as a world-wide faith

Vocational education is centred round one vocation, to proclaim Jesus Christ to the world.

Vocational Development - as a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Know how to proclaim Jesus Christ to others through living out the Gospel Values both at school and at home by:
  - Showing service to others by helping those in need in the community i.e. pupils helping at the monthly elderly parishioners meal at the Parish Centre
  - Demonstrating sacrifice and almsgiving through supporting Lenten charities i.e. Fr Hudson's Society Good Shepherd Appeal
  - Showing forgiveness, mercy, tolerance, peace and compassion by following the class and school rules
  - Demonstrating faithfulness, purity and holiness through Collective Worship, meditation, class and whole-school Masses

Development in SMVSC will take place across all curriculum areas. SMVSC has particularly strong links to Religious Education, Collective Worship and Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education. Within all curricular activities, children will be encouraged to reflect on the significance of what they are learning, to recognise any challenges to their own attitudes and lifestyle and to recognise a spiritual dimension to their lives.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Through classroom discussions we will give the children opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider the needs and behaviour of others
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable children to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally e.g. empathy, respect, open-mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness etc.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, accepting people who are different because of physical and learning difficulties
- Agree and disagree
- Experiencing good role models
- Take turns and share equipment
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively

Practical activities to develop SMVSC will include:

- Working together in different groupings and situations
- Encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times
- Taking responsibility e.g. class monitors, lunch monitors, register monitors, assembly monitors, cloakroom monitors, delivering messages and looking after younger children
- Encouraging teamwork in PE and games
- Appreciation of and respect for the work and performance of other children regardless of ability
- Hearing music from different composers, cultures and genres e.g. in music for reflection time at the start of collective worship
- Meeting people from different cultures and countries

- Participating in a variety of different educational visits
- Participation in live performances
- Use of assembly themes to explore important aspects of our heritage and other cultures e.g. festival days, the patron saints and global events
- Studying literature and art from different cultures supported by visits from writers and artists and participating in workshops
- Opportunities for the children to hear and see live performances by professional actors, dancers and musicians
- Opportunities to make and evaluate food from other countries
- Opportunities in music to learn songs from different cultures and play a range of instruments
- Studying the contributions to society that certain famous people have made i.e. each class will focus on as inspirational person every half term

#### **Links with the wider community:**

- Visitors are welcomed into our school
- Links with the Our Lady and All Saints Church
- The school supports the work of a variety of charities
- The development of strong home-school links is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the children
- Children will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment
- Liaison with the other St Nicholas Owen Catholic Multi Academy schools and the Stourbridge Learning Partnership, to support the primary curriculum and effective transition, takes place regularly

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Provision for SMVSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny
- Audit of policies
- Sharing of classroom work and practice

**Inclusion:**

We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, cultural background, ability or any physical or sensory disability. We believe that all pupils have a right to experience a real environment in which they can learn that people are not all the same. We believe that inclusion is about the school fitting in around the child.

**Policy review:**

The policy will be reviewed annually or as government or Diocesan legislation dictates.

Signed (Chair of Academy Committee): Mrs S Price

Signed (Principal): Mr A Carry

Date: May 2015