

DURLEY CE (Controlled) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education January 2018-2022

Introduction

At Durley CE (Controlled) Primary School, we have clearly defined aims and objectives for all involved in our school, which are underpinned by our Christian ethos. As a church school we want to live out our core values which we consider to be central to all aspects of our work. We believe that a person's core values are strongly held beliefs about themselves and the world around them that help to shape their lives. Through our teaching of SMSC, we want everyone within our school community to learn to show **love** for one another, **respect** for each other's differences and **forgiveness** towards others and ourselves.

High standards of behaviour and attitudes are expected from both the pupils and the staff who work at Durley. Guidelines and further details of this are provided in the schools behaviour policy.

By expecting high standards of behaviour the children are provided with the quality of relationships to which they are entitled. They are also able to access a curriculum and the teaching for promoting personal development in all its forms.

As stated in the National Curriculum, we aim that our school curriculum should promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We aim to prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is the aspect of inner self through which pupils acquire insights into their personal existence, which are of enduring worth. It occurs through reflection on their own and other people's lives and beliefs and their environment. 'Spiritual' is not synonymous with religious; it is the responsibility of the whole school and the whole curriculum, as well as activities outside the curriculum.

At Durley Primary School, we welcome the diversity and breadth of spiritual understanding held by all members of our school; pupils, teaching staff and support staff.

At Durley Primary School, we encourage spiritual development in various ways. School assemblies (Worship Times) introduce pupils to the beliefs,

ideas and practices of other faiths. (See Religious Education policy and Worship Planning Document for further information). 'Circle time', group discussions, Key Stage, class and whole school assemblies encourage mutual respect.

At Durley Primary School, we try to create an environment that is aesthetically pleasing with a variety of interesting, stimulating experiences, which encourage the children to question and wonder about the world. Poetry, music, art and drama, as well as Religious Education are used to develop awareness of beliefs, moods, themes and emotions. We place great emphasis on listening, sharing and respect. This allows the children to feel secure and confident enough to contribute and share experiences from their own life and may provide insights previously unexplored.

Moral and Social Development

Moral and social developments are closely related, especially at primary age. Moral development concerns fundamental judgements and perceptions about how we should behave and act and the reason for such behaviour. It includes questions of intention, motive and attitude and in particular develops principles for distinguishing between right and wrong. Social development relates to those skills and personal qualities necessary to play a full part in society.

Durley Primary School helps its pupils to arrive at an understanding of morality by fostering its own values of respect for self, others and the environment, which are shared with pupils and parents. Personal, Social and Health Education sessions, including Social Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) together with a focus on 'Rights, Respect and Responsibility' allow teachers, children and support staff the opportunity to discuss ideas, listen to others, share views and role play situations. Worship and Circle Time activities enable children to share and discuss ideas in a setting where they will be listened to with respect. Other issues that occur in the classroom can be picked up at these times as well. A great deal of this work, by its nature, requires children to develop social skills to deal with others, including children, adults and the wider community.

At the beginning of each academic year, each class decides on its own class rules, with the children putting forward their own ideas and expectations of behaviour. Class rules are based on values of respect for self, individuals, property and the environment and reinforce the values held by the School.

Cultural Development

Cultural development refers to the pupils increasing understanding and command of those beliefs, values, customs, knowledge and skills, which taken together, form the basis of identity and cohesion in societies and groups. At Durley Primary School, we will encourage pupils' cultural development by deepening their understanding of their own cultural roots and

by broadening their cultural horizons and aspirations. We will value and encourage pupils' own cultural interests and achievements and enrich and broaden their experience of all aspects of culture, whether aesthetic, mathematical, literary, technological, musical, scientific, political, economic or religious. We will do this in a variety of ways. For example:

- Learning about historical figures who have contributed to developing our society in a particular way, e.g., Dr Barnardo
- Visiting churches, museums, places of interest
- Observing special days throughout the year, e.g., Mothering Sunday, Remembrance Day, intercultural theme days
- Listening to and responding to a variety of music – modern, classical, from other cultures
- Looking at the works of famous artists from a variety of cultures
- Reading and listening to a variety of literature – poetry, stories, poetry, myths, legends

At Durley Primary School, respect for, and understanding of, all cultures is nurtured, not only through Worship, assemblies and more formal teaching but also by the school's ethos which values all children and welcomes the diversity of experience each child brings into the school.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils at Durley Primary School have equal access to the school and the National Curriculum, irrespective of race, gender or ability. This therefore gives all pupils the opportunity to develop knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for their self-fulfilment and development as active and responsible citizens.

Community Links

By its very nature, Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC), has direct links with the wider community. We foster close links with our local church. Parents, members and organisations of the local and wider community will be used to help pupils develop respect and understanding of other cultures, of the environment and other groups of people. The children will have opportunities to visit local places of interest and visitors into school will broaden and enrich their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the world around them and give them a deeper understanding of their place within their society.

Review and Monitoring

The Headteacher and subject manager will monitor teachers' half-termly/termly plans to ensure that opportunities for SMSC development are being used effectively. Teachers will be given the opportunity to comment and feed back when SMSC development is reviewed as part of the monitoring cycle.

