

Oak Tree Primary School Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy



July 2018
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Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Policy

Rationale

At Oak Tree Primary School, we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We believe in supporting and developing the whole child, encouraging and instilling in them the Oak Tree values of:

-  Responsibility
-  Equality
-  Friendship
-  Honesty
-  Respect
-  Tolerance

We aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop:

- Their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness and high standards of personal behaviour;
- A positive and caring attitude towards others;
- An understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of all cultures.

Aims

1. To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of and seeks to embrace our values and principles.
2. To ensure that the school community encourages pupils to be resilient, aspirational and maximise their education, both socially and academically.
3. To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC through a broad, rich and varied curriculum and through the general ethos and culture of the school.
4. To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to them as an individual.
5. To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
6. To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
7. To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
8. To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment, and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
9. To give each pupil the opportunity to explore and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

Spiritual Development

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Encourage a high self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings; develop feelings about what is ultimately important.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain satisfying relationships; develop a sense of connection and belonging.
- Identify, develop and practice personal wellbeing and mindfulness.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.
- Consider the worth of prayer and worship.
- Develop a sense of purposefulness.

Moral Development

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Develop a desire to explore their own and others' views, and an understanding of the need to review and re-assess their values based on experience.
- 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, based on knowledge of their own culture and the culture of others.
- Positively contribute to their community and wider society
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements, think through the consequences of their own and others actions.
- Have respect for others' needs, interests and feelings.

Social Development

As a school we aim to promote learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Positively contribute to the school and wider community.
- Establish and build positive relationships.
- Be Restorative in their approach to dealing with conflicting opinions
- Work successfully, as a member of a group or team.
- Share views and opinions with others.
- Resolve conflicts maturely and appropriately.
- Exercise responsibility.
- Understand the notion of interdependence in an increasingly complex society.
- Understand how societies function and are organised e.g. the family, school, government.

Cultural Development

As a school we aim to promote learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.
- Develop an understanding of cultures and backgrounds different to their own
- Develop particular gifts and talents ; providing opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, drama, music, crafts and other cultural events and encouraging them to reflect on their significance.

Guidelines

Oak Tree develops pupil **spiritual development** by:

Planned opportunities for spiritual development in all subjects can be seen across the school. Children are given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of spiritual experiences.

Examples of experiences commonly regarded as spiritual include:

- Curiosity and mystery
- Awe and wonder
- Connection and belonging
- Heightened self-awareness
- Prayer and worship
- Deep feelings of what is felt to be ultimately important
- A sense of security, well-being, worth and purposefulness

The school will continue to develop a climate or ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected; accommodating differences and respecting the integrity of individuals. These can occur during any part of the school day, e.g., when listening to music, discussing the care needed for animals, exercising empathy or creativity, how we live, contemplating the future, etc.

Oak Tree develops pupil **moral development** by:

- Providing a clear moral code as a basis for behaviour and conduct which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school
- Promoting racial, religious and other forms of equality
- Developing an open and safe learning environment in which pupils can express their views and practise moral decision making
- Giving pupils opportunities of moral insights concepts and values, e.g. personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice, equality of opportunity, right and wrong
- Rewarding expressions of moral insights and good behaviour
- Recognising and respecting the codes and morals of the different cultures

- represented in the school and wider community
- Encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their actions, e.g., respect for property, care of the environment
- Developing codes of behaviour, providing models of moral virtue through literature, humanities, sciences, arts and assemblies
- Reinforcing the school's values through images, posters, classroom displays, etc. and monitoring in simple ways, the success of what is provided

Our school develops pupil **social development** by:

- Identifying key values and principles on which school and community life is based
- Fostering a sense of community, with common, inclusive values
- Promoting racial, religious, gender and other forms of equality
- Encouraging pupils to work co-operatively
- Encouraging pupils to recognise and respect social differences and similarities
- Providing positive, shared experiences to reinforce our values as a school community – e.g., through assemblies, team building activities, residential experiences, school productions
- Helping pupils develop personal qualities which are valued in a civilised society, e.g., thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, interdependence, self-respect and an awareness of others' needs (see Oak Tree values as previously noted)
- Providing opportunities for engaging in the democratic process and participating in community life
- Providing opportunities for pupils to exercise leadership and responsibility
- Providing positive and effective links with the world of work and the wider community
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil
- Providing opportunities for pupils to show respect and care for their environment

Our school develops pupils' **cultural development** by:

- Extending pupils' knowledge and use of cultural imagery and language
- Encouraging them to consider special events in the lives of people from a variety of cultures and how they are celebrated
- Recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents; providing opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, drama, music, art, crafts and other cultural events and encouraging pupils to reflect on their significance
- Reinforcing the school's cultural links through displays, posters, exhibitions, etc. As well as developing partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend pupils' cultural awareness, e.g., theatre, museum and gallery visits
- Auditing the quality and nature of opportunities for pupils to extend their cultural development across the curriculum in collaboration with other subject leaders.