



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy 2022- 2023 St. Michael in the Hamlet Primary School

Introduction -What is SMSC?

All schools in England must show how well their pupils develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) experiences. This is not a separate subject that is taught explicitly but an aspect of learning that should be present in lessons and behaviour in school. Some lessons lend themselves more easily to direct SMSC development such as PSHE, Philosophy for Children and RE. We also aim to develop SMSC through behaviour expectations and our attitudes in school.

Definitions of SMSC:

- **Spiritual:** Explore beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.
- **Moral:** Recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views and have an appreciation of British Values.
- **Social:** Investigate and moral issues; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the fundamental values of British democracy.
- **Cultural:** Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

At St. Michael-in-the-Hamlet School, we recognise that the SMSC element of pupils' education is crucial to their development as an individual, allowing them to take their rightful place in their community as a local, national and global citizen. SMSC is about the values pupils are encouraged to hold, their attitude towards learning, knowledge and society. SMSC is fundamental in preparing young people for society and at St. Michael-in-the-Hamlet School, pupils are helped to develop positive attitudes and beliefs by being given opportunities to:

- Develop spiritual values and reasoned personal and moral values;
- Develop their understanding and respect for those with different religions, beliefs and ways of life and value everyone equally;
- Develop personal relationships, based on trust, self-esteem and mutual respect;
- Become active, responsible citizens in a democratic society;
- Develop and understanding of the multi-cultural world in which they live and the interdependence of individuals, groups, nations and the environment.

Vision

It is our vision that, at St. Michael-in-the-Hamlet, SMSC permeate the life and

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work of the school. Through SMSC we aim to develop attitudes and values that will enable pupils to become responsible and caring members of society. We give pupils the opportunity for spiritual reflection and encourage them to explore the fundamental questions of life, including their own personal journey and purpose. We provide pupils with a varied curriculum that will enable them to develop a knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures, particularly those within their own society. We seek to foster an attitude of tolerance and value towards those from a culture and background different from their own. Children are encouraged to develop an understanding of the world, society and the community and accept responsibility as a citizen as well as the capacity to tackle moral and spiritual dilemmas, to help them reach independent judgements which reflect universal human principles. Through perception and sensitivity, tolerance and respect for others as individuals and in groups we would also expect pupils to develop questioning, enquiring minds and learn how to express their ideas appropriately. We provide our children with opportunities for them to learn about rights and responsibilities and appreciate what it means to be a member of a diverse society.

Intent

Through our PSHE curriculum and suggested 'Go Givers' scheme of work, we aim to equip children with essential skills that develop the knowledge, skills and attributes children need to protect and enhance their wellbeing and become active citizens, responsibly participating in society around them. Our PSHE curriculum coverage is a vital tool in preparing children for life in society now and in the future. Lessons at St. Michael-in-the-Hamlet have their foundations in seeing each and everybody's value in society, from appreciation of others in units such as 'British Values', to promoting strong and positive views of self in 'Think Positive' and 'Be Yourself'. Our PSHE and 'Go Givers' Citizenship units aim to cover a wide range of the social and emotional aspects of learning, enabling children to develop their identity and self-esteem as active, confident members of their community. The themes and topics support social, moral, spiritual, and cultural development.

Implementation

As a school we are aware of our collective responsibilities and we:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of their role in developing pupils' morals interpersonal skills, self-esteem and in preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
- Conduct staff and Governor training, so that staff receive input into the significance of key elements of SMSC e.g. Diversity and Inclusion across the curriculum.
- Ensure we celebrate student achievement, foster a sense of community, explore relevant SMSC issues and involve pupils as active participants as much as possible. This is demonstrated through a wide range of events such as the annual Permewan evening in the Summer Term when a variety

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of prizes are awarded to Year 6 pupils. There are also class and Head Teacher Achievement awards for all year groups to recognise effort and participation in the life of the school which encourages a culture of ~~success~~ and achievement for all.

- Encourage pupils to contribute to the school by developing their leadership roles as prefects, Buddies/peer mentors, elected house captains, Eco-and Fair Trade class representatives.
- Ensure pupils have information about all extra-curricular and enrichment activities;
- Ensure displays reflect and respect diversity
- Provide opportunities for all pupils to participate in extra-curricular activities, trips, visits and enrichment days and events such as Earth Day, Red Nose Day, Stephen Lawrence Remembrance Day, to ensure pupils foster their sense of being part of a global community.
- Ensure that staff provide a role model based on courtesy, mutual respect, positive intent and be prepared to listen to pupils' views and encourage them to listen to each other, through class discussion and use of Philosophy for Children lessons.

Across the wider curriculum, we strive to ensure all subjects make a link to PSHE, British Values and the language is used consistently by all staff. Whole school, Key Stage and class assemblies always make a link to SMSC, PSHE and school Values.

Impact

Our effective SMSC provision will be used as a whole-school approach to positively impact wellbeing, safeguarding and PSHE outcomes. This will ensure that all children are able to:

- Develop character which gives them the qualities they need to flourish in our society.
- Be well prepared for modern British life, by having a good understanding of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, tolerance and respect.
- Be well supported pastorally by knowing how to eat healthily, maintain an active lifestyle and keep physically and mentally healthy.
- Be able to develop their talents and interests and direct their own learning.
- Become responsible, active citizens who are able to contribute positively to society.
- Understand, appreciate and respect difference in the world and its people, celebrating the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities.
- Be equipped to make the transition to the next stage in their learning journey, successfully.

Reviewed: October 2022

Next Review: October 2023

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