



Spiritual, Moral, Social  
&  
Cultural Policy

June 2015

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

### **Mission statement:**

St. Saviour's was established by the National Society in 1865 for the education of children in the parish of Poplar guided by the principles of the Church of England. We have at our heart the spiritual and moral wellbeing of all our pupils, striving for excellence whilst not being elitist, keeping the faith whilst remaining inclusive in serving a multicultural community. We aim to provide a good education so as to enable every child to flourish in their potential as a child of God.

At St Saviour's Church of England 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 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 the cultures.



### **Our Aims**

- To be a safe, happy, caring community of learners.
- To help all individuals regardless of their race, gender or disability to acquire the skills and knowledge needed to achieve or exceed their full potential in a rapidly changing world.
- To promote the Christian faith whilst developing an understanding of and respect for a wide range of religious values, languages and cultural traditions and different ways of life.
- To encourage an enjoyment of life-long learning, curiosity, creativity and perseverance.
- To foster the virtues of hope, honesty, friendship, fellowship, justice, endurance and reverence.
- To encourage positive parental and community involvement.
- To promote healthy lifestyles including social, emotional and mental wellbeing.
- To provide a curriculum that is inspiring, progressive, broad and balanced.
- To celebrate achievement in all fields.
- To promote our partnerships within our community in Poplar and beyond.

## **Our Values**

### *Care*

- For each other and the school
- For our local community
- For God's creation

### *Respect*

- Aiming at the best from ourselves and for others
- Honouring our Christian values
- Valuing the difference in others

### *Inspire*

- Being open to new challenges and experiences
- Fostering creativity in everything we do
- Deepening our sense of the spirit

## **Guidelines**

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum.

Christian spirituality and Christian values and principles will be explored in all curriculum areas, especially in RE/Collective Worship, but the integrity and spirituality of pupils from 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 unique and valuable individuals and showing (Christian) love and respect for pupils and their families.

The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school.

Pupils 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.

Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules should 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 teacher's planning and purchasing decisions.

## **General Aims**

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.

- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- 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.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, 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:*

- 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.
- Develop a sense of spiritual wellbeing through giving in acts and deeds from singing at our local Retirement home to signing to raise money for others from the Samaritans to Child line, to refugees in Syria.

#### Moral Development

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

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Recognise the challenge of Jesus' teaching.
- 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 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 Christian imperative for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged.

- Learn about the wider Christian community beyond our locality, in partnerships with other schools in London, in Rwanda.
- See opportunities to deepen our understanding of diversity and koinonia by working with Poplar Partnership and Deanery Partnership schools.

#### 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 influenced individuals and society. Especially in our locality with partnership working in Poplar and the Deanery group of schools.
- Recognise Christianity as a world-wide faith especially in our connections to other schools in Rwanda.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

#### Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle.

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

*Class discussions and circle time will give pupils opportunities to:*

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

*Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:*

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are physically or mentally different.
- Agree and disagree.

- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

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

- Visitors are welcomed into school.
- Links with the Church are fostered through links with the local church and the Diocesan Board of Education.
- 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.
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

#### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

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

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning, by co-ordinator/senior management/head-teacher/governor.
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings
- Audit of policies and Schemes of Work.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Audit of Collective Worship policy and practice.
- Collation of evidence in pupil's work in school portfolio.
- Regular inclusion on SDP.

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