

Weston Turville CE School



Inspire, Believe, Achieve - Together

Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Values (SMSC)

Co-ordinator	Ms Sue Fitzpatrick
Agreed by Staff	Summer 2014
Adopted by Governors	Summer 2014
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The personal development of pupils (SMSC) is a major aim of education, and is central to the education of the whole child/person. It is a statutory requirement that clear and planned provision is made for SMSC for all pupils. The Primary National Curriculum 2014 states that: "Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life."

Weston Turville CE School is a Church school and our ethos is rooted in our Christian faith. It is focused on the development of the whole person and SMSC values pervade all aspects of school life and all subjects. Our school vision is to Inspire, Believe, Achieve - Together.

We believe that education is value-inherent and are thus proactively committed to the promotion of skills, awareness and dispositions underpinned by our Christian values that enable our pupils to develop their capacity to explore their own and others' values and beliefs in a safe and respectful but challenging environment.

The purpose of this policy is to state clearly the shared values and aims of the school and to ensure that they are reflected in our practice through the effective promotion of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Opportunities for SMSC are both planned and spontaneous, arising out of the day-to-day experience of pupils and staff in and beyond the school.

Core beliefs

At Weston Turville CE School, we believe:

- in the ultimate value of every individual in the school community because everybody is special to God;
- in equal opportunities for all, regardless of faith, background, gender, ability or sexual orientation;
- in education as a means for developing as a human being as well as for learning.

We believe that all children are individuals with unique characters, talents, experience and potential. At the same time they are members of several communities – home, school, local area, and religious and social groups, as well as the broader communities of the country and the world. They use past experience to make judgements about the world around them, live and learn in the present and look to a future full of opportunities.

Our Christian Values

Everyone in our community was involved in selecting six core Christian values which are **kindness, honesty, self-belief, trust, respect and fairness**. These are supplemented by the British Values of democracy, rule of law, mutual respect, individual liberty and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs and those without faith.

What is SMSC?

We explored the meanings of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural values in the context of our school and arrived at the following working definitions, whilst accepting that no definition is absolute.

SMSC is a dimension of the whole school experience which makes the curriculum relevant, stimulating, creative and fun. It enriches each subject and the ethos of the whole school by encouraging us all to explore, in an appropriate way:

Spiritual values are to do with questions of meaning, purpose and value in life. What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to be me? What are we here for? How do we relate to the world/universe?

Moral values are to do with raising questions about right and wrong, often derived from spiritual values, and how we decide. How should we live our lives? Why should we be good? What do we mean by 'good'? How do we respond to the many moral and ethical issues facing us in moral life?

Social values are to do with relationships between people and groups of people and how these relate to our spiritual and moral values.

Cultural values are to do with the different ways of experiencing, responding to and expressing the above that are found in the diversity of life in modern Britain and around the world.

The aims of the school

At Weston Turville CE School we aim to provide our children with a high standard of education within a Christian ethos which is meaningful to them both as individuals and as members of various communities, and which equips them with the confidence and skills to develop their potential in the present and in the future.

To this end we provide...

- A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum taught to a high standard, and differentiated for the full range of abilities
- A caring, inclusive atmosphere offering equal opportunities to all children, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or ability
- A secure and stimulating environment, which is modern, attractive and well resourced
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities, whole school initiatives and community events
- A variety of experiences where the children can develop spiritually, morally, socially and emotionally

We foster self-esteem and confidence in the children by...

- Valuing individuals and recognising their strengths
- Celebrating success
- Having high expectations and consistent boundaries so that achievements are valued
- Giving them the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them
- Encouraging them to challenge themselves
- Helping them to build the skills of decision-making

For the children as members of communities we aim to develop...

- A lasting sense that each person plays a part in a community and should be respected and valued for who they are
- Interest in, understanding and acceptance of other races and religions
- A strong sense of spiritual and moral values
- Awareness of the importance of personal commitment and its effect on others
- Their strength to challenge what they believe is wrong
- A strong partnership between school, home, church and community

- Respect for the school environment and the resources within it
- Pride in our country and heritage
- Respect for the wider environment, our place within it, and our responsibilities towards it
- Awareness of global issues

We encourage the children as learners by...

- Promoting independence and initiative
- Fostering creativity and individuality
- Developing the ability to listen to different points of view and form an objective opinion
- Providing opportunities for working together so they learn the rules of teamwork and the spirit of co-operation
- Developing clear and confident communication in a range of situations
- Challenging them to think 'outside the box'
- Giving them experience of change so that they learn to be adaptable
- Helping them to choose the best method for learning and finding out about things
- Providing an ethos for continuous improvement
- Promoting competent knowledge and skills in the use of IT
- Aiming for all children to be literate and numerate to the best of their abilities by the time they leave Year 6
- Preparing the children for secondary school, future employment and being part of the wider community

We aim for the children to be happy, healthy and fulfilled as individuals by...

- Fostering enjoyment and enthusiasm
- Laughing together and expressing emotion – adults and children
- Allowing them to be children and enjoy each stage of their primary school lives, as well as looking forward to what lies ahead
- Promoting a healthy lifestyle, including exercise, diet and rest
- Allowing for appropriate freedom of expression

Whole-school promotion of SMSC

a) School Ethos

The promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development provides the why (as opposed to the what and how) of education: it is an essential ingredient of school success. Every adult in school has a major role to play in promoting this. Values are communicated both implicitly and explicitly. The way we respond to pupils, the relationships we build with them, the example we set, all express the values we live by and can be shared and explored through Collective Worship (see the school CW policy). It is expected that in all our dealings with pupils, we all strive to adhere to and promote these values.

b) School Curriculum

SMSC in the curriculum is a way of making the curriculum relevant to the experiences, past, present and future, of the pupils. It provides depth and integrity to what we do and humanises the curriculum. All subjects can and should contribute to this and identify in plans where this will be done and possible areas where they may arise naturally. Because we have a shared understanding of SMSC, teachers are better able to identify both planned and spontaneous opportunities across the whole curriculum.

c) Teaching and Learning

Teachers will inspire pupils through the enthusiasm for and modelling of learning. Teachers will use creative strategies and challenging questions to engage pupils in their learning and relate it to their own experiences.

d) Extra-curricular activities and community links

Personal development is enriched through a wide range of extra-curricular activities, which provide opportunities for SMSC and for inspiring pupils to broaden their experience and horizons. These make a significant contribution to the ethos and spirit of the school. We work in partnership with parents and the wider community to make sure that we give our pupils the best possible environment in which to grow, flourish and learn.

Monitoring

This policy is monitored by the Governing Body through the Pupil Development Committee. In addition there is a SMSC and Christian Distinctiveness Governor.