



St Ambrose Catholic Primary School

'Follow the example of Jesus'

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Approved by the Governing body in December 2018

Signed _____ Chair of Governors

Signed _____ Headteacher

To be reviewed and revised in December 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

Follow the example of Jesus

To do this we will:

- Show respect by being friendly to everyone, looking after everything that God has created and treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves. (Christ centred)
- Provide a high quality education which enables everyone to reach their full potential within a caring and supportive environment. (Education)
- Celebrate the school's place in the community and the wider world. (Community)

Objectives:

(Christ Centred)

- Provide quality collective worship and enriching liturgical celebrations.
- Enable our children to acquire an excellent religious education, through a well taught and resourced Come and See programme.
- Encourage all to develop their understanding of and relationship with God, while at the same time respecting that others choose to express their faith in different ways.
- Be positive role models, who treat each other with respect and are willing to forgive and be forgiven.

(Education)

- As teachers, to be both inspirational and creative so that every child's achievements are recognised and celebrated and that they are encouraged to become independent learners.
- To provide a safe and happy learning environment so that every child feels valued and secure within our school family.
- To encourage regular communication with parents by creating a positive and caring support network for the extended school family.

(Community)

- To join with the parish and local community to celebrate special occasions throughout the year.
- To enhance the curriculum by uniting as one all of the generations in the community and fostering mutual respect.
- To provide opportunities for the children to visit places of interest and experience a range of different cultural events in order for them to gain a better appreciation of the world around them and to 'fire' their own aspirations.
- To participate in charitable activities and be able to empathise with the needs of others.

At St Ambrose Catholic Primary School, we recognise that the personal development of our 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 children with opportunities to explore and develop: their own values and beliefs; spiritual awareness; high standards of behaviour; a positive caring attitude towards others; an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

All Curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's SMSC development and opportunities for this where possible will be planned in to curriculum areas.

Collective Worship will allow children to explore their own spirituality and will focus on moral values and the Catholic Faith, whilst building resilience to extremist views (see also Collective Worship Policy).

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour treating all people as valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families (see also Dignity at Work Policy). Children should learn to differentiate between right and wrong and understand how their actions can affect others. In addition to modelled behaviour, PSHE lessons will also add to the teaching of SMSC which takes the form of lessons in Citizenship, British Values, and Personal and Social Skills. These sessions are timetabled weekly for 1 hour.

Our School rules promote responsible behaviour and high expectations. Each class has a set of rules displayed in their classroom and these are referred to regularly.

Spiritual Development:

We aim to ensure that children -

- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Sustain their self-esteem throughout their learning experiences.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection to contemplate their Christian faith.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain positive relationships.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

Moral Development:

We aim to ensure that children -

- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- 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 choices.
- Understand and respond to injustice.

Social Development:

We aim to ensure that children –

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Help others within school and the wider community.

Cultural development:

We aim to ensure that children –

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in our area, the wider community and the world.

Practical Activities to develop SMSC are:

- Co-operative learning – work together in different groupings and situations. This will provide opportunities for children to listen and talk to each other; develop an awareness of others, treating them as equals; learn to agree and disagree; experience good role models.
- Talking Partners during lessons (usually these are mixed ability)
- Allocating responsibilities to children (eg KS2 children acting as buddies on KS1 playground, school councilors, prayer club members).
- Encouraging teamwork across the curriculum where relevant.
- Allow time for children to show appreciation for the achievements of others (ie. in whole school assemblies).
- Listening to music from a range of composers or from different countries. Opportunities in music for children to listen to and learn songs or play instruments from other cultures.
- Listening to stories or studying literature from other cultures.
- Learn about how famous people have contributed to society.

Links with the wider community:

- Visitors are welcomed into our school to support learning and SMSC.
- The school will promote and support the work of charities such as CAFOD, Nugent Care and MacMillan.
- The use of our home – school agreement. This enables us to work in an effective partnership with parents and families to support the children.
- Liaison with local secondary schools, to support delivery of the curriculum.
- Develop links with wider community in order to appreciate cultural diversity.

We believe that we will strengthen and develop every child and member of staff therefore allowing all staff and pupils to develop their potential as described by John 10:10 – “..that all may have life and have it to the full.”