



# Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy



Bishop Martin CE Primary School  
2019-20



Our school's mission statement is 'Learning together, in God's love'. As a Christian school our approach supports our mission statement and all of our 12 school values including Compassion, Friendship, Respect, and Trust.

At Bishop Martin Church of England School we aim to provide a happy, stimulating and secure environment, reflecting the school's Christian ethos where each pupil is given the challenge and opportunity to develop his/her full potential while enjoying learning and life.

We endeavor to provide an environment and ethos in which children and adults can grow and develop in spirituality and where positive attitudes and consistency provide children with good role models, and similarly, older children are expected to demonstrate good behaviour and support to younger children. All children are valued equally whatever their stage of development, and are entitled to maximum success. The ethos encourages safe, sensible behaviour incorporating good manners, consideration, courtesy and respect for others whilst encouraging imagination, inspiration and reflection.

### **Introduction**

At Bishop Martin CE Primary Church of England Primary School Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted through all the subjects of the curriculum through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values.

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

### **Principles**

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for individual pupils, staff and for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about - helping pupils grow and develop as people.

It is an expectation at Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies such as discussion, reflection, pupil participation, prayer time etc.

The importance of relationships between all school staff, parents and governors is crucial. These relationships will be characterised by:

- mutual respect,
- positive attitudes,
- the willingness to listen and be listened to
- the valuing of all pupils.



## **General Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

Through the delivery of the Inspire curriculum, Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School aims towards ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- To promote respect and consideration for differences in gender, race, religion.
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum.
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development.
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society.
- To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.
- To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life.
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live.
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self-respect and self-confidence.
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities.

## **Spiritual Development**

We strive to support the children in the development of their spiritual life so that through reflection, they will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. Children's spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material well-being.

We believe that this begins with a personal, experience of the core Christian values rooted in the bible and we teach these through:

- Personal and community prayer.
- A sense of God's presence permeating the life of the school.
- Hearing the word spoken in scripture.
- A curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder.
- The ability to listen and be still with quiet times of reflection.

## **Moral Development**



Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour.

*Aims for Moral Development:*

- *To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions.*
- *To understand that love is at the heart of the Christian understanding of morality.*
- *To be able to distinguish between right and wrong.*
- *To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions.*
- *To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions.*

### **Social Development**

*This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, the school, the local and wider community. Within this there should be a balance of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group or God did not create mankind for life in isolation, but for the formation of social unity. Therefore it is part of the school's responsibility to support pupils and their families in the formation of good social attitudes.*

*Aims for Social Development:*

- *To relate positively to others and learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with membership of a group or community.*
- *To become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others.*
- *To participate fully and take responsibility in the classroom and in the school.*
- *To use appropriate behaviour, according to situations.*
- *To participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop co-operative skills that will help all to live with each other.*
- *To learn what it means to be a responsible citizen.*

### **Cultural Development**



At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others. The Inspire curriculum, and its content, embraces children's knowledge of the world they live in and the diverse cultures of the wider community.

*Aims for Cultural Development:*

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background:
- To respond to cultural events e.g. musical performances, visits to art galleries and museums, residential trips to Stratford Upon Avon.
- To share different cultural experiences e.g. visits to different places of worship, workshops on world religions.
- To respect different cultural traditions through the curriculum and Collective Worship e.g. Chinese New Year.
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition (See behaviour Policy).
- To develop a balanced approach to retaining the traditions of our Christian society, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present.
- To be introduced to the values and customs held within our Anglican, Christian tradition.

***Implementation:***

The promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of each child is seen as the responsibility of all members of staff. Much of this development should be assimilated through the ethos of the school. However, there are many opportunities within the Inspire curriculum to focus on the aims and objectives outlined. All children regardless of gender, ability or social background will receive the same teaching with each of their views being taken into account.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- listen and talk to each other
- learn an awareness of treating all as equals, accepting people who are different because of physical and learning difficulties
- agree and disagree
- experience good role models
- take turns and share equipment
- work co-operatively and collaboratively.
- Practical activities to develop SMSC will include:
- working together in different groupings and situations
- encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times
- taking responsibility e.g. Worship leaders, Reading Buddies, Ethos group leaders, Head boy and girl, Prefects.
- encouraging teamwork in PE and games and Music.
- appreciation of and respect for the work and performance of other children e.g. Musical performers, Sporting Achievements.



**Philosophy for Children.**

*The promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of each child is also promoted through Philosophy for Children (P4C). Each week pupils take part in a P4C session linked to an area of the curriculum or recent world event. Through P4C children are given the opportunity to explore and share their own thoughts and opinions about big concepts such moral and ethical issues and given the chance to ask their own questions. This provides pupils with a space to develop their tolerance and respect for others' feelings and values and a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them.*

**Monitoring and evaluation:**

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