



## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy

At Ashfield Primary School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally (SMSC) plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education and environment 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;
- an appreciation of the diversity and richness of cultures.

The SMSC policy provides the school with the opportunity to meet our Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. As a school we recognise the importance of these values because:
  - people, staff as well as pupils, achieve better when they feel valued;
  - our beliefs and values influence the way we behave and the community that we live in;
  - education is about the development of the whole person.

### 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 enrich our school community, local community and country.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

## Spiritual Development Aims

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 emotions and express their feelings
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

## Moral Development Aims

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

- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.
- 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.

## Social Development Aims

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about the value of service in the school and wider community

## Cultural Development Aims

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in our school, local community and Britain, and how these influenced individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

## **Teaching and Learning**

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. Teachers at Ashfield Primary School will use creative strategies and challenging questions to inspire and engage pupils in their learning and relate it to their own experiences.

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, e.g. bullying, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others.
- Consider others needs and behaviour.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, understanding, forgiveness and critical awareness.

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 different from themselves in terms of their personal beliefs, physicality, ethnicity and ability.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Playtime activities will provide opportunities to:

- Explore relationships with friends and peers.
- Consider others' needs and behaviour.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Listen and talk to each other.
- Empathise with others.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

Personal development is also enriched through a wide range of extra-curricular activities (eg. Sport, Drama, Art, gardening) which provide opportunities for SMSC and for inspiring pupils to broaden their experience and horizons.

### Personal Mentoring

Children identified as vulnerable or needing additional support in their personal development spiritually, morally, socially and culturally are allocated time with our learning mentor to support their needs.

Agreed by the governing board of Ashfield Primary School 22/11/2023

Review Date: Autumn 2026

Associated policies:

PSHE policy, Sex and Relationships policy, Collective Worship policy, RE policy, Learning and Teaching Policy, SEND policy, Behaviour policy, Single Equality Scheme