

# Welton St. Mary's Church of England Primary Academy



## Our Vision

As an inclusive Christian community we value each person, seeking to release everyone's full potential as promised by Jesus Christ. We seek to provide a safe, inspiring and creative learning environment providing opportunities for all to flourish. Through challenge, support and care, we strive for excellence in all that we do; always building on the foundations of shared values with consistently high expectations rooted in God's love. Together we are encouraged to be agents of positive change in this world.

*'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'* Romans 15:13

**Wisdom Hope Community Dignity**

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Approved January 2024

**Welton St Mary's CE Primary Academy**  
**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy**

**Our aim is for all to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10**

'Pupils understand the importance of caring for others and the school's Christian outlook has a significant impact on their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development..... RE makes a major contribution to pupils' SMSC development by supporting their knowledge of Christianity and the other major world religions. This results in their impressive understanding and respect for diverse communities.' SIAMS report March 2016

### **Introduction**

Welton St Mary's CE Primary Academy is proud of being part of the Church School family and values highly the church and the Christian faith. Our Christian ethos is firmly embedded in the life of our school and is lived out by all members of the school community through appreciation of the core school values which underpin all that we do: love and friendship, peace and harmony, respect, responsibility, forgiveness and trust.

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 aim to help children grow into great local, national and global citizens who develop good character, strong positive relationships, resilience, good health and wellbeing, and where all have an opportunity to thrive.

We therefore aim to provide a curriculum 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 other cultures. Opportunities to develop a child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness are planned for and celebrated within every area of the curriculum.

The integrity and spirituality of pupils from other faith backgrounds are respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions are recognised, and pupils will be given access to alternative views. Children's ideas and feelings are valued and respected and they are given time and space to ask the "big questions" of life and ponder possible answers. Illustrations and examples are drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible and this is reflected within curriculum planning. The planning for SMSC is under constant review taking into account our rapidly changing world.

All adults model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families.

The school community is a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals, and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is a fundamental to the ethos of the school. Pupils will 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 will learn to understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone.

School and classroom rules will reflect, reiterate, promote and reward positive behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of our pupils is a crucial element in all areas of our curriculum. It is often implicit and hidden. We aim to make it explicit and open.

### **General Aims**

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and vision.
- 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.
  
- To actively promote British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs and meet the needs of pupils preparing them for life in modern Britain.



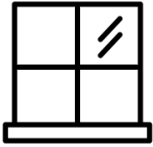
British Values  
Statement.docx

### **Spiritual Development**

‘connection with myself, others and beyond’

Spiritual development is concerned with developing the non-material aspects of life, focussing on personal values, meaning and purpose. Beliefs that help provide perspective on life may be rooted in a religion or faith but equally may not. Children explore the fundamental British Values by exploring and respecting the values and beliefs of others.

At Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, we will encourage both children's and adults spiritual development through using



The window is about new learning. Looking at the world – wonder and questions  
Wows and ows (awe-full/awful)



The mirror is about reflecting, learning from each other and from varied stories, experiences and contexts.



The doors are for looking through in order to then act or express this in some way in response; for moving on, making choices, and doing something creative, active and purposeful in response. This can simply be done through a change in attitude or behaviour or thinking. It can also be through some form of social action or specific acts of giving.

And through the spiritual capacities of:

- Giving everyone the opportunity to explore values and beliefs, including religious beliefs and the way in which they impact on people's lives;
- Being guided by their beliefs and values and be willing to take a stand to defend them
- Giving everyone time and space to ask questions
- Providing opportunities to take risks, reflect, develop resilience, perseverance and grow so that they can cope when faced with life's challenges
- appreciating and being thankful for what is good in life, like friends and family, and show generosity towards others
- Encouraging social action and making a positive change in our world
- Encouraging everyone to explore and develop what animates themselves and others;
- Giving everyone the opportunity to understand human feelings and emotions, the way they impact on people and how an understanding of them is important (self-awareness and empathy);
- Loving themselves, caring for themselves and believing in their potential to achieve
- Developing an ethos within which everyone can grow and flourish, enjoying individual liberty and mutual respect;
- Providing opportunities to develop imagination and creativity, appreciating the beauty in the world and being inspired by experiences of awe and wonder
- Accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals, including tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs;
- Providing learning opportunities which value children's questions, encourage deeper questions and give them space for their own thoughts, ideas and concerns and to reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life
- Providing opportunities for them to develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Making time for everyone to experience moments of stillness and reflection.

- Supporting everyone in the formation and maintenance of worthwhile and satisfying relationships.

### **Moral development**

Moral development is largely about choices, behaviour and how we live our lives. It's also about personal and societal values and understanding the reasons for them. Children develop the fundamental British Value of investigating moral values and ethical issues and recognising and applying right and wrong along with the expectations of society's shared values, including democracy, justice and the rule of law and how these change over time. We recognise the need to help our pupils to balance their right to an opinion and to freedom of speech, with their respect and tolerance of others' values and beliefs.

At Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, we encourage both children's and adults moral development by:

- Recognising the unique value of each individual;
- Recognising the challenge of Jesus' teaching;
- Listening and responding appropriately to the views of others through explicit oracy teaching;
- Gaining the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes;
- Taking initiative and acting responsibly with consideration for others;
- Distinguishing between right and wrong;
- Showing respect for the environment;
- Making informed and independent judgments taking right and wrong into account;
- Fostering values such as honesty, fairness, and respect for truth and justice
- Providing opportunities for reflection and development of their own opinions;
- Helping them to recognise and resolve moral issues and dilemmas
- Encouraging everyone to take pride in themselves and their work;
- Developing personal skills and qualities necessary to manage situations such as being able to make decisions, reflect on and change personal behaviour, resist peer pressure, challenge behaviours which do not reflect our values;
- Abide by 'fair play' being good winners and losers in games, rules and in life.

### **Social Development**

Social development shows our school community working together effectively, both within school and within our community. We support children in growing an understanding of the part they play within the school community and the wider community and society, both now and in the future. Through their social development, we encourage children to relate positively to others, participate fully in the community and develop an understanding of good citizenship.

At Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, we encourage both children's and adults moral development by:

- Developing an understanding of their individual and group identity;
- Learning about service in the school and wider community;
- Beginning to understand the Christian imperative for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged;
- The forming of attitudes to good social behaviour and self-discipline;
- Developing an understanding and respect for others, their opinions, beliefs and customs;
- Developing an understanding of society's institutions, structures and characteristics including democracy and the rule of law;
- Encouraging them to have a sense of pride in their community;
- Nurturing the development of inter-personal skills, necessary for successful relationships;
- Helping them to use restorative approaches with their peers increasingly independently;
- Encouraging them to think about the impact on their own and others' actions on others;
- Expecting good manners and courteous behaviour;
- Working co-operatively, in competition, taking the initiative and responsibility towards contributing to the life of school and the wider community.
- Providing opportunities for children to develop self-confidence.

### **Cultural Development**

Cultural development is about understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and experiencing a range of cultural activities (for example art, theatre, travel, concerts). Opportunities will be given to enable children to understand and appreciate their own culture and other cultures in the community, Britain and throughout the world. It is an exploration of how we are similar and different; how we came to be the way we are and how we are changing. Children develop pride as well as curiosity and wonder of the world along with the fundamental British Value of exploring, understanding and tolerance of the diverse cultural traditions and beliefs of others; valuing cultural diversity and preventing racism.

At Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, we encourage both children's and adults moral development by:

- Recognising the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society;
- Recognising Christianity as a world faith;
- Developing an understanding of their social and cultural environment;
- Developing an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions;
- Enriching pupils' knowledge and experience through visitors and visits to museums and art galleries and to work with artists, musicians and performers. Music of other cultures is

valued as is the contribution of many cultures to development of science and technology;

- Helping children to understand and feel comfortable in a variety of culture and be able to successfully live in the emerging world of culture of shared experiences provided by the television, travel and the internet;
- Providing pupils with the knowledge of and appreciation of the key features of their own cultural traditions and practices and of other groups within their own community and the wider world;
- Encouraging participation in and appreciation of a wealth of cultural traditions and the beliefs associated with different communities.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

This is achieved by:

- Subject Leaders identify potential aspects within their subjects to be included in teacher planning and advise teachers accordingly.
- Teachers regularly identify opportunities for SMSC development within planning and provide feedback for Subject Leaders.
- Subject leads and year group teachers will monitor resource provision, identifying shortfalls and centrally record evidence of SMSC provision across the curriculum.
- Collective Worship and RE lead will monitor the link between Collective Worship, the classroom, SMSC and how this threads through the curriculum.
- The Head Teacher shall have oversight of this policy and monitor the provision of SMSC