BIRCHINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

LEARNING AND GROWING; SAFE IN GOD'S LOVE

Aim

At Birchington CE Primary School we want our pupils to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens. Through our Christian Vision and School Values we recognise the importance of both the academic and personal development and well being of every child in our school. This includes recognising the importance of providing a range of opportunities for our pupils to respond to, that supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Explicit opportunities to promote pupils' development in these areas are provided in RE and PSHE. A significant contribution is also made by our Christian Vision and School Values, school ethos, effective relationships throughout the school, collective worships, and other curriculum activities.

We have five School Values: Hope, Peace, Forgiveness, Love and Respect. These values permeate all areas of school life and help facilitate children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC)

(NB whilst each dimension is outlined separately there is a great deal of overlap between the four areas).

Spiritual Development

The spiritual development of pupils is shown by their:

- *ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life*
- *knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values*
- *sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them*
- *use of imagination and creativity in their learning*
- *willingness to reflect on their experiences*

For some, the spiritual is intimately bound up with the belief in God, whilst for others it is bound up with the human spirit alone.

In our school we help pupils make sense of their spirituality by referring to the four connections: connection to yourself, connection to others, connection to the world and connection to God.

We are committed to:

- celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our pupils bring as part of their family/cultural heritage and to building an awareness of and respect for others' spiritual and religious beliefs
- fostering common human values and building spiritual capacities to promote self-worth, self-esteem and a valuing of others
- helping our pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on ultimate questions
- developing our pupils' spirituality by through curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a sense of awe and wonder

Moral Development

The moral development of pupils is shown by their:

- *ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England*
- *understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions*
- *interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.*

We are committed to encourage our pupils to:

- be truthful and honest
- respect the rights and property of others, their opinions and customs even when they are different from our own
- help others
- solve differences of opinion in non-violent ways.

Consequently, we reject all forms of bullying, cruelty, dishonesty, violence and discrimination.

Social Development

The social development of pupils is shown by their:

- *use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds*
- *willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively*
- *acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; they develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.*

We are committed to:

- fostering the skill and qualities of team building through the development of self-confidence, co-operation, sensitivity to others,
- reliability, initiative and understanding
- providing an environment where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society

Cultural Development

The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:

- *understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others*
- *understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures in the school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain*
- *ability to recognise, and value, the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities*
- *knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain*
- *willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities*
- *interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept and respect diversity. This is shown by their respect and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities*

We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the world by:

- promoting an appreciation of our own cultural tradition/s and encouraging an appreciation of other people's cultural traditions
- celebrating the richness of culture and tradition.

In the light of this we will ensure that the SMSC development of our pupils is promoted across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school by:

- providing an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution
- encouraging teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to SMSC development and to ensure Hub and Hub members have an understanding of SMSC education in their subjects
- recognising the importance of our collective worship programme in supporting and encouraging SMSC development
- reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school development.

GP reviewed September 2026
To be reviewed September 2027