



## St. Laurence's Church of England Primary School Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy



### Aim

At St Laurence's Church of England Primary School, the pupils and their learning are at the very heart of every decision made. We want our pupils to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens, who take ownership of their learning and are proud of their achievements. 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 developments with an understanding and an overview of the *Every Child Matters* agenda. They will progress through our school making choices and being ready to accept responsibility for what they do. We recognise that every person in our school should set, and be entitled to expect from others, good standards of behaviour, marked by respect and responsibility.

### Planning

In planning lessons, teachers are aware of the need to plan opportunities to develop a wide variety of spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs. A vast majority will be delivered through cross curricular activities as well as specific PSHE, RE, P4C and Circle Time activities.

### Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC)

Our school will develop a climate or ethos within which all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected; accommodating difference and respecting the integrity of individuals.

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

### Spiritual development:

Spiritual development enables people to look within themselves at their human relationships, at the wider world. The Spiritual development of all our children is addressed through the ethos of the school.

As a church school we include Christian Spiritual practices including, prayer, worship, celebration of festivals and reading/reflection on the Bible within Collective Worship, RE and the wider curriculum.

We are committed to:

- celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our pupils bring as part of their family/culture 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



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- developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a sense of awe and wonder.
- reflect on their own experiences.

### Moral development

Moral development is knowing what is right and wrong and acting on it accordingly. We are committed to encouraging pupils to:

- distinguish right from wrong, based on knowledge of the moral codes of their own and other cultures
- have an ability to make responsible and reasoned judgements
- 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
- understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions.

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

Teachers always discuss with their classes a code of conduct for the classroom based on the values held by the school. We teach pupils to be aware of their own actions, take responsibility for their own bodies and encourage independence. We will help the children to identify their feelings and think these through so that they are expressed in behaviour that is socially acceptable.

### Social development

Social development: developing an understanding of rights and responsibilities of living in community-of-being a "responsible citizen". 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

We use the social and emotion aspects of learning (PSHE) programme (PSHE Association Planning Toolkit) to support our pupils' social development.

At St Laurence's Primary School we recognise that pupils who are becoming socially aware are likely to be developing the ability to relate well to other people's social skills and personal qualities; allowing them to resolve conflicts appropriately and reflect on their own contribution to society.



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**Cultural development**

Cultural development is the knowledge and understanding of others' cultural traditions. 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 peoples' cultural traditions
- celebrating the richness of culture and tradition
- gaining knowledge of Britain's parliamentary system and its role in shaping our history and values (Year 6)
- recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents; providing opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, drama, music, art, crafts and other cultural events and encouraging pupils to reflect on their significance
- extending pupils' knowledge and use of cultural imagery and language
- exploring the relationship between human beings and the environment

**Pupil Voice**

The term 'Pupil Voice' describes how pupils give their input to what happens within the school and classroom. Our desire is for pupils to know that their expertise, opinions and ideas are valued in all aspects of school life. Pupil Voice permeates all levels of our work, from pupils participating in small group classroom conversations to pupils establishing procedures, events and contributing to the overarching ethos of the school through the School Council.

Last Reviewed: May 2023  
Next Review: May 2026



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**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 enables 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 develop SMSC development and to ensure subject leader have an understanding of SMSC education in their subject
- 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.