

Saxton Church of England Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

(SMSC)

At Saxton CE Primary School the children are encouraged to develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and begin to make personal decisions and choices which reflect this development. Opportunities to develop SMSC are provided throughout the curriculum and within the 'hidden' curriculum, during lessons, in collective worship, at lunchtime, playtime and extracurricular activities.

Aims and Purpose:

Saxton is a Church of England School whose ethos is founded on Christian teaching and values and recognises the worth of each individual member of the school, children and adults alike. The aim of the school is to enable the children to understand and respect the various beliefs, traditions and practices of others within school and the wider community. Our purpose is to ensure that pupils leave us with a maturing understanding of the experiences and values of others and a growing sense of identity based on personal values and self worth.

Spiritual Development is about the nurture of a fundamental aspect of the human condition that may not be expressed through the physical senses or through words. It involves relationships, with the divine, for those who believe, and with other human beings and the natural world. It recognises the universal search for personal identity, the challenges of responding to difficult experiences and the need to find meaning and purpose in life.

Moral and social development encourages a growing awareness that one is part of a wider society in which an individual has responsibilities towards others and may also assume certain rights. It involves an understanding that compliance with laws and rules plays an important part in enabling a society to function effectively for all. It encourages the acquisition of positive values and beliefs as a foundation for living and the basis of good decision making.

Cultural Development enhances understanding of the role of traditions, customs religious practice and artistic expression in giving identity to groups of people. It involves exploring how these combine to create a rich diversity of experience in our community and builds increasingly harmonious relationships with others in a wider world.

To encourage spiritual awareness the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore the Christian faith and compare with other faiths
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder, mystery and joy
- Listen, reflect and wonder
- Examine our own feelings, likes and dislikes and compare these with others
- Develop personal beliefs and values and respect those of others
- Develop insights into life, death and change
- Respond to situations of suffering and hardship
- Express doubts, fears and pose questions

To encourage moral and social development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Develop a sense of right and wrong
- Develop self esteem and take responsibility for one's own actions
- Be aware of the needs of others and develop empathy
- Discuss the need for rules and sanctions
- Understand the roles of forgiveness and generosity
- Make the right choices in a supportive environment
- Work collaboratively in a group or team
- Celebrate personal achievement and the success of others
- Assume responsibility and develop early leadership skills

To encourage cultural development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore a range of multicultural themes through literature, art, music, dance, religious education and worship
- Participate in visits to places of cultural interest
- Engage with visitors to school eg artists, musicians, dancers, religious representatives
- Perform to an audience or speak publicly eg productions, religious festivals, school council
- Participate in school and community events eg fund raising, charitable events

Much of the SMSC work in school will be planned into the wider cross curricular work, some of it will stand alone and some will be within the 'hidden' curriculum and ethos of the school.

This policy aligns with and works alongside our Policy on Promoting British Values and with the Collective Worship Policy.

C Middleton

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Review November 2019