



East Sheen Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) Policy

Definition

At East Sheen Primary School, the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is considered as part of everything we do.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the school, our teaching of 'Habits of Mind' (one of our Thinking School Tools) and through the development of positive attitudes and values and planned time for reflection. Our school vision underpins all that we do and focuses on nurturing happy, confident children and preparing children for the future. Our [behaviour policy](#) celebrates respect for one another and rewards celebrate, recognise, and promote the values of SMSC development. Responsibilities, such as House Captains, Sports Captains, Green Ambassadors, Wellbeing Ambassadors, Playground Buddies and Librarians, as well as the democratically elected Pupil Leadership Team all promote the children's personal development.

The school has a well embedded 'Environmental Intelligence' strand to its curriculum, helping students to become environmentally responsible global citizens. The school won the Wellbeing Award for Schools and places wellbeing at the heart of pupil experience and development.

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of East Sheen Primary School, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

Principles

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for individual pupils and it is crucial for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about helping pupils grow and develop as people.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is cross curricular and promotes the aims and principles of our Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Religious Education (RE) curriculum; our, Safeguarding and our Relationships and Sex Education policies; and our Equality Statement.

It is an expectation at East Sheen Primary School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of

appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g. discussion, reflection, pupil participation, circle time, collective worship etc.

The importance of relationships between all school staff, parents and governors is crucial.

These relationships will be characterised by mutual respect, by positive attitudes, by the willingness to listen and be listened to and by the valuing of all pupils.

Spiritual Development

This relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It has to do with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs. It is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith and therefore spiritual development is accessible to everyone.

Aims for Spiritual Development

- The ability to listen and be still
- The ability to reflect
- The ability to sense wonder and mystery in the world
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships

Objectives for Spiritual Development

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- To develop the skill to use all of ones senses
- To develop imagination
- To encourage times for quiet reflection throughout the school day
- To develop individual self confidence

Moral Development

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At East Sheen Primary School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour.

Aims for Moral Development

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions

- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions
- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions

Objectives for Moral Development

- To tell the truth
- To respect the rights and property of others
- To help others less fortunate than themselves
- To be considerate to others
- To take responsibility of own actions
- To exercise self-discipline
- To develop high expectations and a positive attitude
- To conform to rules and regulations to promote order for the good of all

Social Development

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local, wider and global community. Within this there should be a balance of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group or society along with the demands, obligations and cooperation such membership requires.

Aims for Social Development

- To establish a sense of belonging in our school community
- To relate positively to others
- To participate fully and take responsibility in class and school
- To use appropriate behaviour across a range of situations
- To work cooperatively with others
- To use own initiative responsibly
- To understand our place in our family, school and society

Objectives for Social Development

- To share emotions such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear and reverence
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others
- To work as part of a group
- To interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, visits, church services, music festivals etc.
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a part of a caring community
- To show care and consideration for others e.g. sharing and turn taking
- To realise that every individual can do something well and have something to offer

Cultural Development

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

Aims for Cultural Development

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background
- To respond to cultural events
- To share different cultural experiences
- To respect different cultural traditions
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition
- To develop a balanced approach to retaining the traditions of our Christian society, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present

Objectives for Cultural Development

- To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the arts, i.e. music, art, drama, literature etc.
- To develop a love for learning
- To develop an understanding of different cultures and beliefs, including Christianity

- To appreciate the values and customs of other ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British society, and the world beyond
- To develop the ability to value these independently

General Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

East Sheen Primary School aims through ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- To promote respect and consideration for differences in age, disability, race, gender, sex, sexual orientation, and religion/belief
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society
- To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum
- To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live and take responsibility for its protection
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self-respect and self confidence
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities

Approved by Governors: Autumn 2025

Next review date: Autumn 2028