



SMSC Policy

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development

Date: October 2018

Review Date: October 2021

As a Church of England school, our Christian vision and values are central to all we do. Our mission statement, Jesus said, "Come live your life the way God wants you to", motivates us to look to Jesus as our guiding light. He inspires us to live out our Christian values and to strive for Excellence in all that we do; celebrating life in all its fullness. Our values of compassion, thankfulness, friendship, peace, responsibility and forgiveness underpin our approach to developing SMSC within our children.

Introduction

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development at St Thomas is distinctive because these four aspects of the school curriculum are inextricably rooted in the reality of God the Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Religious Education curriculum is where excellent and distinctive SMSC is seen most clearly, however it is also something that permeates the whole curriculum and everything we do at St Thomas'.

This policy relates to the whole life of the school. Of particular importance in promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) is the example set by adults in the school, the quality of relationships and the standard of daily collective worship. Our school has a Christian foundation and we actively promote the values of compassion, thankfulness, friendship, peace, responsibility and forgiveness in every aspect of school life. The SMSC aspects of education concentrate on the development of the pupil as an individual and as a personality, aiming to enrich and extend the human existence of each child in relation to the values, attitudes, beliefs and consequent behaviour acquired during school years. When children leave St Thomas' Primary School, they will have the skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully and positively at High School and eventually in a democratic and modern Britain. St. Thomas' Primary School actively seeks to promote equality and diversity and fundamental British values. British values are given to be democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty and the mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Attention of staff will be drawn to the document Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (Department for Education November 2014) British values will be taught at age appropriate times throughout the curriculum.

Spiritual development

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.

Psalm 139.13-14

Spiritual development within RE in a church school enriches and encourages the pupils' discovery of God the creator, of their 'inmost being' and of the wonder of the environment.

At St. Thomas', spiritual development is promoted through:

- exploring their relationship with God and the sense that they are his children, unique and loved by him;
- exploring and experiencing prayer and worship from a variety of Christian traditions;

- giving thanks to God for all aspects of school life;
- discussing and reflecting upon key questions of meaning and truth such as the existence of God, the origins and purpose of the universe, good and evil, life after death;
- considering the value of human beings and their relationship with God, with one another and with the natural world;
- discovering how the creative and expressive arts enable spiritual development;
- opportunities to discuss feelings and emotions openly;
- recognising and encouraging the use of personal and group gifts and talents;
- opportunities to develop their gift of imagination and creativity;
- encouraging curiosity and questioning so that their own views and ideas on religious and spiritual issues can be developed within a secure environment where faith is valued;
- developing a sense of personal significance and belonging;
- encountering Christian fellowship.

The learning environment and curriculum at St Thomas' CE Primary School supports spiritual development through allowing children to:

- Be curious and to express feelings of delight and wonder, (scientific investigations, new life, the global landscape, through creative subjects such as art, music and poetry)
- Empathise and consider the viewpoints of others, (debates, drama activities, discussing feelings and empathising with characters in stories)
- Consider how a belief can change people's lifestyles, (R.E, Collective Worship, investigating communities and faiths, historical case studies)
- Discuss what they think they have achieved and what they need to do to be successful in the future, (self-assessment, target setting activities)
- Have time and space within school to think and reflect (Prayer Stations, class worships Prayer Garden, Eco Garden, Eucharist Service, Collective Worship, End of Day Prayer, church services)
- Develop a sense of who they are, what they like and what they want to change about themselves (PSHCE, RE, Collective and Class Worship)
- Be guided by a clear set of Christian values (responsibility, forgiveness, friendship, compassion, thankfulness, peace)

Moral development

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12.2

Moral development at St. Thomas' is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, which offer pupils a secure foundation stone on which to make decisions and build their lives.

At St. Thomas', moral development is promoted through:

- developing a sense of right and wrong based on the teaching of Jesus Christ;
- recognising the values identified within the Bible: truth, justice, trust, love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption;

- learning to follow a path through the conflicting demands of faith, family, peers, society, the media and the world of ideas;
- recognising the importance of personal integrity;
- developing mutual respect across racial and religious divides;
- recognising that people's rights also imply responsibilities;
- developing a sensitive conscience.

The learning environment and curriculum at St Thomas' CE Primary School supports moral development through:

- Codes of conduct and class rules, agreed with children and displayed in the classroom
- Clear and consistent rewards and sanctions that children understand and believe to be fair (clear behaviour system – St Thomas' STAR award, Shooting Stars etc.)
- Class and school worship that discuss moral values and cite expectations
- Activities that enable pupils to give opinions and share their values (committees – Worship, school council, Eco Committee, Reading Ambassadors)
- Discussing the choices made by the pupils and others and the resulting outcomes (character studies, studies of historical figures)
- PSHE Curriculum that gives children the chance to discuss moral issues and learn to avoid temptation (peer pressure)
- The use of moral stories and Bible stories in class and school worship to explore moral issues
- The teachings of the Christian faith and other faiths in RE to develop a moral compass to guide and support children in making decisions about the way that they should behave (RE lessons, worship)
- The values of forgiveness, kindness, avoiding temptation, honesty, patience, respect and tolerance are explicitly taught and modelled throughout the school

Social development

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples. John 13.34-35

Social development at St Thomas' develops pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice.

This is promoted through:

- developing a sense of empathy, compassion and concern for others;
- building relationships within the school and between the school, the parish and the local community;
- considering how Christian beliefs affect decisions at local and national level;
- investigating social issues from the perspective of Christianity and of other faiths, recognising the common ground and diversity that exists between them;
- providing opportunities for pupils to articulate their own views on a range of current issues and to show respect for the opinions of others and a willingness to learn from their insights.

The learning environment and curriculum at St Thomas' CE Primary School supports social development through:

- Modelling of positive social behaviour by all staff, including valuing all contributions during lessons – respect
- After school clubs
- Sporting activities
- Buddy and team games at play times and lunch times e.g. STOP (Y6 with KS1 children)
- Learning buddies and Talk Partners within lessons
- Pair and small group work within the classroom
- Working with others across the local community (inter-school sporting events, retirement home)
- School trips and experiences – residential visits in many year groups

Cultural development

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3.28

Cultural development in St. Thomas' provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide, multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

This is promoted through:

- promoting an understanding of Christianity from a global perspective through encounters with people, literature and the creative arts from different cultures;
- exploring the diversity of Christianity worldwide with particular reference to the diversity of the Anglican community;
- considering the relationship between British and European culture and Christianity;
- appreciating the diversity of cultures within Britain.

The learning environment and curriculum at St Thomas' CE Primary School supports cultural development through:

- Stories from different cultures (within lessons and the library)
- First hand experiences through local visits, theatre, art and artists (visits by poets and authors; visits to theatre productions)
- Visitors from the local and international community
- Being part of National and International fund raising events
- Studies of a different lifestyle including different food, dress, festivals and places of worship (Including Christianity around the world – focus on crosses)
- Learning about other cultures within the curriculum and in Collective Worship (Multi-faith day)
- Children are taught to understand the lifestyles and choices made by a variety of different cultures and faiths

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The planning and coordination of SMSC are the joint responsibility of the RE Subject Leader and Worship Leader
- SMSC is monitored as a part of every learning walk and lesson observation.
- Analysis of this information identifies strength in practice and next steps for improvement
- This policy will be reviewed every three years