

### **General Aims and Philosophy**

At St Joseph's School, Catholic teaching and tradition underpins, shapes and supports our approach to all that we do; this includes the aspect of SMSC Development. We believe that it is our duty to nurture and support the development of every child in our care. We recognise spiritual and moral growth as an intrinsic elements to the development of the whole child and we foster a school environment which enables each child to grow in love for God, themselves and each other.

Many aspects of the daily life of our community shape the spiritual and moral environment of the school. As such, staff recognise the importance of cohesive and shared values which help to inform the way in which they approach any given situation.

### **SMSC Development in non-curricular activities**

We are presented daily with opportunities to strengthen and foster the spiritual and moral values of our school. Such opportunities include:

- **Whole-class discussion;** arising from the children's questions, actions or personal experiences – relating to moral dilemmas, social issues and areas of personal faith and wonderment
- **Praise, rewards and disciplines;** especially when they are apportioned in front of other children
- **Playtimes and lunchtimes;** the way in which children are encouraged to share this communal and recreational time together
- **Whole school and/or community incidents and events;** tragedies and celebrations which are felt as a whole school community
- **The nature of school publications and literature;** both the content and how they address the parents, children, staff and parish members
- **Home-School relations;** the way in which we share our values and morals with the children's primary carers and support each other in relation to the children's education and spiritual and moral growth
- **How both staff and children are treated, respected and valued;** by other staff and other children, both on an individual and group basis

### **Structured opportunities to foster SMSC**

The following areas are identified as being opportunities to address, discuss and share with the children spiritual and moral "teaching":

- Collective worship is integral in enabling children to develop their spiritual awareness and spiritual understanding and assemblies will focus on moral, social and cultural issues. Children will access to the class prayer table every day.
- Across the curriculum, teaching and learning pupils will experience awe and wonder as they have new experiences that lift their spirits.
- Forest School Days
- RE as a stimulus and a springboard for the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, with further links to P4C

- Whole school themed teaching projects – e.g. Philosophy Fortnight, Other Faiths Weeks, Festivals Of Light projects etc
- In the teaching of English the use of stories, plays, drama and poems will make significant contributions to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- Art, science, mathematics, design technology, music and physical education will all be used to provide opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.
- On every appropriate occasion teachers will use first-hand experience, visits, visitors, artefacts and the local and wider environment to provide good opportunities for pupils to experience awe and wonder.
- In RE, through their understanding of the different faiths and beliefs children will be encouraged to develop their feelings and 'empathy and understanding for others.
- Through history and geography and their increasing knowledge and understanding of the world, learners will be helped to develop an understanding of the British society in which they live and its cultural diversity. They will also learn about the diversity of cultures across time and across the world.
- Children will learn about the influence of religion, faith and belief on democracy, our government, the Monarchy, citizenship, and the Law. They will learn about rights and responsibilities, moral, spiritual, social, ethical and environmental issues.
- Pupils will be taught how to develop the social skills that build society including how to work harmoniously with others, how to have empathy for others and how to respect the beliefs and cultures of others.
- Across the curriculum, in teaching and learning pupils will learn how to behave, the importance of truthfulness and honesty. They will learn about the importance of kindness and care for others and of the importance of justice and fairness.
- We will use financial resources to build up an extensive collection of resources, artefacts and books to support the teaching of spiritual, moral and social education.

### **Summary and Outline**

As a staff we share the following statements in relation to our approach to SMSC Development:

- We refer to the whole school PRIDE rules when dealing with behaviour
- We refer to the school Mission Statement when sharing values and aims of the school
- We establish a cohesive discipline procedure to reinforce the existing behaviour policy
- We support each other as a staff when unexpected incidents and events occur which affect us, or the children, morally and/or spiritually

Aspects of SMSC Development are naturally integrated into other areas of the school life and curriculum. For reference, this policy is intended to be considered in conjunction with the school policies on:

- RE
- SRE
- PSHCE / SEAL
- Multicultural Aspects
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Collective Worship
- Behaviour