

Rachel Madocks School

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Policy

Rationale

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child is recognised as being of fundamental importance for the education of all learners by all stakeholders within our community at Rachel Madocks School. It is taught through all subjects of the curriculum, supports all areas of learning and contributes to our pupil's motivation to learn. It is recognised that such development will be most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by the staff provide a model of behaviour for the pupils. We believe that our SMSC development contributes towards the individual's appreciation of life's experiences and their relationships with others in communities around us.

School SMSC Ethos

The values and attitudes promoted and modelled by the staff influence the behaviour and attitudes within the school. The quality of relationships and the atmosphere within the school reflect an appreciation of their shared values and treat all people as unique and valuable individuals - 'Valued for Being Me'.

Through classroom discussions we will give our learners opportunities to:

- Share their achievements and successes with others
- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider the needs and behaviour of others
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people
- Value themselves and others.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable children to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally e.g. empathy, respect, open-mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness etc.

Our learning environment and curriculum provides opportunities for our learners to:

- Listen and talk to each other
- Be curious and express feelings of delight and wonder
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, accepting people who are different because of physical and learning difficulties
- Agree and disagree
- Experience good role models
- Take turns and share equipment
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively
- Discuss what they think they have achieved and what they need to do to be successful in the future

Practical activities to develop SMSC will include:

- Working together in different groupings and situations
- Encouraging learners to behave appropriately within the school community
- Understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone
- School and classroom rules reflecting, reiterating, promoting and rewarding acceptable behaviour and ensuring opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.
- Taking responsibility e.g. pupil voice group, school council, prefects, class monitors, delivering messages and looking after younger children or peers
- Encouraging teamwork in PE and games

- Showing appreciation of the performances of other children regardless of ability
- Hearing music from different cultures and genres
- Meeting people from different cultures and countries
- Participation in a variety of different educational visits
- Participation in live performances
- Use of assembly themes to explore important aspects of our heritage and other cultures e.g. festival days, the patron saints and national celebrations
- Studying literature and art from different cultures
- Opportunities to evaluate food from other countries
- Opportunities in music to learn songs and dances from different cultures

Spiritual Development

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life
- Value others' spiritual beliefs

Moral Development

- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
- Distinguish between right and wrong
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgements
- Understand the consequences of actions

Social Development

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Helping others in the school and wider community
- Understand how individuals relate to each other
- Being able to adjust to a range of social contexts by appropriate and sensitive behaviour
- Being able to make a personal contribution to the well-being of groups
- Have the ability to exercise responsibility and with initiative
- Being able to participate cooperatively and productively in the school and wider communities
- Knowing how societies function and are organised
- Understand how what is learnt in the curriculum relates to life in society
- Being able to take on the roles of team leader and team worker

Cultural Development

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions
- Have an understanding of beliefs, customs, values, knowledge and skills which form the basis for identity and cohesion in society
- Recognise and respect for the rights of others to exercise a cultural influence
- Learn about the key features of major cultural groups within society
- Develop and strengthening the cultural interests of pupils
- Expose pupils to a breadth of stimuli in order to allow them to develop new interests
- Understand the diversity of culture in society

Links with the wider community

- Visitors are welcomed into our school
- Links with local churches are fostered
- Visits to places of worship of other faiths will be arranged to support the understanding of different cultures
- The school will support the work of a variety of charities
- The development of a strong home-school agreement is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support our learners
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment
- Liaison with local schools to support the curriculum and foster new partnerships

Monitoring and evaluation

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by the Leadership and Management Team
- Regular discussions at LMT and staff meetings
- Review of policies and medium term plans including the school's approach to collective worship

Date of Policy: June 2017

Date of policy review: June 2019

Useful reference documents:

The Hampshire school self-evaluation tool for the promotion of SMSC development. May 2012

Rachel Madocks Policies: Collective Worship
Assembly