



St James'
CE Primary, Blackburn

Mission Statement

Together we value, inspire and develop each child within a happy, safe community based on Christian values and respect for other faiths.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) with the Promotion of British Values Guidance

Date agreed by Governors: 23rd March 2017

Date to be reviewed by Governors: 23rd March 2018

Honesty Forgiveness Courage Hope Kindness Respect Love Friendship Trust

Aims

St James' Church of England Primary School recognises that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally (SMSC) plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve and underpins school life. The school therefore aims to provide a high quality education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures.

Through the mission statement:

"Together we value, inspire and develop each child within a happy, safe community based on Christian values and respect for other faiths,"

every individual is valued for who they are and what they contribute to the school. Values are principles that drive behaviour and influence actions and attitudes. They influence the relationship with ourselves, others and the wider society. The Christian values promoted at St James' are important within the school community and which will be important throughout life. They underpin all we do in school and we strive to share, encourage and demonstrate positive values in order that children understand them and live by them.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development

Spiritual

Spirituality can be defined as, 'exploring beliefs and experience, respecting values, discovering oneself and the surrounding world, use of imagination and creativity and an ability to reflect.' The school recognises that spirituality may be found in a variety of religious traditions, or in ways not dependent upon a religious tradition at all. Within the school's curriculum, spiritual development may happen as a planned activity or may be spontaneous. Pupils' spiritual development is shown by their:

- beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible
- use of imagination and creativity in their learning
- willingness to reflect on their experiences

Moral

The **moral** development of pupils is demonstrated by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and their readiness to apply this understanding in their own lives
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues

Social

The **social** development of pupils will encourage pupils to take responsibility, resolve conflicts, show initiative and develop an understanding of living in a community. Pupils' social development is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds

- willingness to participate in a variety of social settings, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- interest in, and understanding of, the way communities and societies function at a variety of levels to allow them to participate fully and contribute positively to life in modern Britain

Cultural

The **cultural** development of pupils is demonstrated by their understanding and appreciation of a range of different cultures and how these have shaped their own heritage and those of others. Pupils' cultural development is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the range of cultural influences within school and further afield as an essential part of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its role in shaping history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in, and respond to, for example, artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, understanding of, and respect for cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities

SMSC and the Curriculum

SMSC is an important part of the school's ethos. It enriches the curriculum and personal development of pupils. At St James' Church of England Primary School, it is an essential ingredient of school success. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education can be taught through all areas of the curriculum, not just PSHE, RE and collective worship. It is an on-going process and valuable links within other subject areas can be made.

St James' Church of England Primary School promote the development of confident, self-assured learners who achieve personal success and understand how their education equips them for the next stages of their lives. Through the provision of SMSC, the school aims to:

- Provide a calm and caring community where all children and adults are valued equally
- Raise expectations and secure positive attitudes to learning
- Ensure everyone is challenged to fulfil their potential
- Promote positive behaviour and conduct
- Develop pupils understanding to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Develop their self-knowledge, self esteem and self confidence
- Encourage a personal pride in being part of the school and the wider community
- Ensure the school community understand and promote the fundamental British Values
- Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England
- Enable pupils to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely
- Show respect between different cultural traditions by enabling the children to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- Show respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Promoting British Values

As part of the SMSC curriculum , the school also promotes the fundamental British values of:

- *Democracy*

- *Rule of law*
- *Individual liberty*
- *Mutual respect*
- *Respect of those of different faiths and beliefs*

The school actively seeks opportunities to promote British Values. This can be through daily collective worship and whole school systems and structures. For example, holding elections for School Council, Eco Team and Worship Committee. These values are taught explicitly through Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and Religious Education (RE) and the school also actively promotes British values through ensuring that the curriculum planning and delivery includes real opportunities for exploring these values.

At St James' Church of England Primary School, these values are reinforced regularly in the following ways:

Democracy: Linked to the school value of respect

Pupils have opportunities in school to have their voices heard. For example, through the School Council, Eco Team and Worship Committee. Pupils will develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process and develop an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

The Rule of Law: Linked to the school values of trust, honesty, respect and courage

The importance of laws and rules, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are consistently reinforced. Pupils are taught the values and reasons behind laws and how they govern and protect us. They are also taught the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities, such as the Police Service, are encouraged to support children's learning. The school behaviour policy also reinforces the school values and encourages children to demonstrate these values at all times. Where behaviour does not meet high expectations, children are asked to reflect upon the school values.

Individual Liberty: Linked to the school value of courage

Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices at school, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. The school provides boundaries for children to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and planned curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised how to exercise these safely. For example, through the teaching of online safety. Pupils are given the freedom to make choices. For example, selecting and participating in extra-curricular clubs. Pupils will develop an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.

Mutual Respect: Linked to the school values of respect, friendship and kindness.

The curriculum is designed to ensure that children learn about other cultures, traditions and faiths to promote mutual respect for all. One of the core school values is respect and this permeates throughout school life.

Respect of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs: Linked to the school values of respect, friendship, love and kindness.

Pupils develop an understanding and respect that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) and this should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour. Pupils develop an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination. Through the curriculum the school promotes an understanding and respect for a range of faiths. School helps pupils to acquire an understanding of, and respect for, their own and other cultures and ways of life. Children are encouraged to understand their place in a culturally diverse society by having opportunities to experience such diversity. For example, through exploring stories and celebrations from a variety of faiths and cultures. Within the school community, a wide range of faiths are

celebrated and children learn from each other. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning . Children may visit places of worship that are important to different faiths. Through PSHE and RE lessons, prejudices and discrimination are explored.

St James' Church of England Primary School is committed to the development of community cohesion and the prevention of extremism and radicalisation both within the school's physical boundaries and within the local, national and global communities. The school is also committed to respond to community concerns or local disturbances in a positive way which supports British democratic society. The school believes that sharing the school values and British values with parents, carers and the community is essential in supporting children through their journey in school and life. The school acknowledges and understands the importance of the role that the community has to play.