



## **SMSC and British Values Policy**

### **Mossy Lea Primary School**

#### *School values and ethos*

At Mossy Lea Primary School the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education (SMSC) is considered to be fundamental to the life of the school. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted through all the subjects of the curriculum, through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values and planned time for reflection. This policy supports and reinforces the aims of the school, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

Mossy Lea Primary School approaches the promotion of fundamental British values in line with the Government's PREVENT strategy. These British Values are: democracy; individual liberty; the rule of law; mutual respect; tolerance of those with different faiths and belief.

Each is defined below and placed in a school context through the use of examples. It is, without question, everyone's duty to ensure they do not undermine these fundamental British values.

#### **Context**

At Mossy Lea Primary School we recognise that SMSC plays a significant part in pupils' ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education provision that provides children with opportunities to explore and develop:

- their own values and beliefs
- their own spiritual awareness
- their own high standards of personal behaviour
- a positive, caring attitude towards other people
- an understanding of a range of social and cultural traditions and choices
- a comparative understanding of their personal culture and social norms with those of others

SMSC plays a significant part in ability to learn and to achieve. All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's SMSC development. Values, principles and spirituality will be explored in the curriculum, especially through Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, RE and Collective Worship. Cultural traditions will be recognised and celebrated, integrity and spirituality of other faith backgrounds will be respected and platforms for exploration of the rights and respects of others explored, ensuring children are given access to explore alternative views and to develop their own.

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as valuable individuals and showing respect for children and their families. Children will learn to differentiate between what is right and what is wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.

School and classroom rules will reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate children's work and achievements.

Emotional literacy development will be supported utilising methodology within the Jigsaw published materials and vulnerable pupils who need extra help will have additional support to develop these skills.

The importance of relationships between all school staff, parents and governors is recognised. 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 members of the school community.

We want our children to become responsible, active citizens who participate in democracy and public life with respect for diversity and a commitment to working towards greater community cohesion. The PSHE curriculum emphasises the difference between right and wrong and respecting and tolerating differences in a very diverse and modern Britain.

Using the published Jigsaw curriculum we will enable children to make progress towards these aims. Through engaging lessons and appropriate activities, we can give them all a better understanding of themselves and others in the 'community of communities' in which they live.

We can secure and influence behaviour and attendance and encourage further involvement and commitment to education.

### **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 spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone.

### *Aims and Objectives for Spiritual Development*

The ability to listen

The ability to reflect

The ability to sense wonder and mystery in the world

The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships

To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert

To develop the skill to use all ones senses

To develop imagination

To encourage times for quiet reflection throughout the school day

To develop individual self esteem and confidence

### **Moral Development**

Children are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. We work towards an understanding of what is morally right and wrong. From this basis pupils are supported to develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and/or behaviour.

### *Aims and Objectives for Moral Development*

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions
- To be able to distinguish between what is morally right and wrong
- To be able to make choices, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions
- To move gradually through a taught code of behaviour towards taking responsibility for their own moral decisions
- 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 for their own actions
- To exercise self discipline
- To develop personal high expectations and a positive attitude
- To conform to school and class rules in order to promote order for the good of all

### **Social Development**

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants within their family, their class, the school, the local, wider and global community. We aim to offer 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 and Objectives for Social Development*

- 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
- To develop emotional literacy in order to be able to express own feelings and understand those of others
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others
- To work as part of a group and to interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, visits, music festivals
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being 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 and Objectives 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 a mixed faith society, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present
- To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts, e.g. Music, Art, Drama and Literature
- 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

## **British Values: Aims and School Context**

At Mossy Lea Primary School, British Values are entwined in our ethos, however, British Values are promoted more discretely through themed assemblies, links to PSHE and RE lessons and through cross-curricular topic work.

### **Democracy**

- To understand how they can influence decision making through a democratic process
- To understand and respect the democratic process
- To understand how to argue and defend a point of view
- To understand the importance of team work

In school we promote the importance of democracy through such things as:

Pupil Voice on school decisions – e.g. agreeing school and class rules, school values School Council discussions, Heads Team and Pupil Voice Surveys

Children vote on choosing activities for rewards

Children are also encouraged to consider alternative pathways in lessons

### **Rule of Law**

- To be able to recognise the difference between right and wrong and apply this to their own lives
- To be able to accept responsibility for their behaviour
- To understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- To be able to resolve conflict
- To understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality and society more widely
- To understand that living under the rule of law protects them and is essential for their well-being and safety

At Mossy Lea we promote the importance of rule of law through such things as:

Our school's behaviour policy, which is delivered through school via assemblies and class teaching opportunities.

We use a whole school system of restorative justice.

A shared set of classroom rules.

Marking and feedback, as well as homework, policies set clear boundaries.

## **Individual liberty**

- To understand rights and responsibilities
- To understand the concept of freedom of choice

At Mossy Lea we promote the importance of individual liberty through such things as:  
Children are encouraged to express their opinion in a polite and thoughtful manner  
The range of extra-curricular activities and clubs on offer  
Encouraging children to think of the consequences of their choices with respect to their actions through a restorative justice approach.

## **Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

- To be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise that inform their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values
- To be reflective about their own experiences
- To be able to investigate and offer reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others
- To use a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religions, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- To participate in a variety of communities and social settings, cooperating well with others
- To understand and appreciate of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential part of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- To understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity as shown by their tolerance and attitudes

In school we promote the importance of mutual respect and tolerance through such things as:

Strong links with Tunley Church

Visits to other places of worship e.g. Hindu Temple, Liverpool Cathedral

Clear boundaries of behaviour through our behaviour policy

Our RE curriculum

Assembly themes, stories and visitors that encourage an open understanding of respect for and understanding of a range of faiths that are part of British culture

Our charitable work with a range of local, national and international charities.

## **Partnerships with parents, carers and the wider community**

The development of a strong home-school agreement is regarded as highly important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support pupils in their SMSC development.

Visitors are welcomed to participate in and contribute to school activities and curriculum delivery. Links with the local community including local churches and other places of worship are fostered.

Children will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment and the school supports the work of a variety of charities locally, nationally and globally.

### **Implementation of the policy and review**

The implementation of this policy and the planning and teaching of SMSC is the responsibility of all staff.

**Date policy written:** October 2018 by /Iain Pearson

**Date approved by the full Governing body: October 2018**

**Date to be reviewed:** October 2019

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