



St. Columba's Catholic Primary School

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Policy

Reviewed October 2017

POLICY

The promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development provides the 'why' of education: it is an essential ingredient of a successful Catholic school. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is at the heart of what education is all about – helping pupils grow and develop as people.

At St Columba we want our pupils to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens. We recognise the importance of both the academic and personal development and well-being of every child in our school. This includes recognising the importance of providing a range of opportunities for our pupils to respond to, that supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

AIMS:

- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and in society, and 'prepare such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.'
- provide an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution
- encourage teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to develop SMSC development
- to ensure subject leader have an understanding of SMSC education in their subject
- To recognise the importance of our collective worship programme in supporting and encouraging SMSC development

Opportunities:

It is an expectation that all staff, in all subjects, can and should, make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g. discussion, reflection, pupil participation, circle time etc.

It is also recognised that Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development can be taught as a standalone. Each term a calendar of organised opportunities will be drawn up. This can be viewed by Parents on the school website.

Tapping into Talent; Breaking Down Barriers; Daring to Dream



Spiritual, Moral, Social; and Cultural development (SMSC)

Spiritual Development

- To give our children the opportunity to explore values and beliefs and the impact they may have on peoples' lives
- To support and develop their religious beliefs
- To encourage them to develop what inspires them and others
- To encourage them to reflect and learn from reflection
- To celebrate difference and mutual respect
- To give our children the opportunity to understand feelings and emotions, how they affect people and how they can help each other

MORAL DEVELOPMENT:

- To provide our children with a moral code of behaviour which is applied consistently through all aspects of school life
- To encourage them to take responsibility for their actions
- To give them opportunities to explore moral concepts and values
- To provide positive rôle-models
- To provide activities which will prevent discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender or any other criteria
- To provide an open and safe learning environment in which children are encouraged to express their views and make decisions on 'moral grounds'

Social Development:

- To develop an understanding of rights and responsibilities of living in community-of being a 'responsible citizen'.
- To foster the skill and qualities of team building through the development of self-confidence, co-operation, sensitivity to others, reliability, initiative and understanding.
- To provide an environment where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society
- Teach the children how to successfully participate in the school community, the local community, nationally and internationally.
- Teach the children to be tolerant to all the people in society.

Cultural development:

At St Columba's we value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the world by: promoting an appreciation of our own cultural tradition/s and encouraging an appreciation of other people's cultural traditions

- celebrating the richness of culture and tradition.

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Holding Hands with Jesus as we love, learn and grow together



- providing an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution
- encouraging teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to development SMSC development and to ensure subject leader have an understanding of SMSC education in their subject
- recognising the importance of our collective worship programme in supporting and encouraging SMSC development
- reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school development

TEACHING AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

The spiritual and moral development of our children is at the heart of everything we do at St. Columba's. The learning situations are planned to meet the needs and stage of maturity of the individual. In addition to Religious Education, Spiritual and Moral Development are an integral part of the delivery of an exciting broad, balanced curriculum.

Some distinct units of the PSHE and CITIZENSHIP programme target Spirituality and Morality. Visits and visitors bring a sense of 'Awe and Wonder', whilst supporting the development of the individual. This is also supported by our planned week of 'Awe and Wonder' in the summer term.

The daily act of Collective Worship is planned to provide all of our children with the opportunity to take an active role in 'spiritual/moral' discussion. Time is given to prayer and reflection.

All of our children benefit from Circle Time where the emphasis is on the development of the Whole Child and includes such programmes as Forest of Feelings and SEAL.

As a Catholic School we strive to nurture our children and give them the best possible start on their journey through life.

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