Moorside Primary School

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural

(SMSC)

Policy Statement

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PURPOSE, VISION & VALUES

Our Purpose
Moorside Primary is a school at the heart of our diverse community in the West End of Newcastle.
We pride ourselves in belonging to a caring school community where everyone is welcome.
We strive to deliver an outstanding education for all our children.
We help everyone to become caring and active citizens
We encourage everyone to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Our Vision
We want everyone in our school to work together to make us as good as any school can be.
We want to create new opportunities for everyone to succeed.
We want to create a culture which broadens all of our horizons.
We want everyone to be able to tackle the challenges we will face in an ever changing world.
We want all of our children to effectively engage with each other and with our community.

Our values

We all believe...
Our local community deserves a school they can be proud of
We are a caring community where everyone is welcome
We all value, respect and support each other
Our community has the right to be safe and healthy.
Our children should have the chance to enjoy and be enthused by their time in our school

We all agree...
Everyone will always try their best and take pride in all that they do
Everyone will demonstrate good manners at all times
Everyone will respect each other and show consideration
Everyone will respect and care for our environment and resources
Everyone will celebrate each other's successes and achievements

Rationale
At Moorside Primary, we recognise that social, moral, spiritual and cultural development is central to the education of all pupils and permeates the whole curriculum and ethos of the school. It is reflected in the behaviours of individuals and in their interactions and also in the provision of teaching, resources and learning environments.

Social development relates to the development of knowledge and understanding and the acquisition of skills in relating to others. This begins with family and friends and extends to the wider community beyond. Pupils are taught to respect each other and to appreciate each other's similarities and differences. An awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live is also developed.

Moral development relates particularly to developing knowledge and understanding of right and wrong. Pupils learn to make choices in their behaviour through developing knowledge of boundaries and understanding of consequences. They learn by example and by practising through role-play, story and group activities.

Spiritual development is concerned with the exploration and development of feelings and emotions; personality, individuality and uniqueness; and knowledge and understanding of their own and different beliefs and cultures.

Cultural development is concerned with encountering the defining aspects of different cultures. Explorations of values, beliefs, customs, foods, artefacts and stories allow the pupils to make comparisons and develop knowledge of lifestyles and choices of others.

Strategies
SMSC development is taught through and reflected in all areas of the curriculum and through all aspects of school life. Pupils are provided with the opportunities to gain in knowledge and understanding and to develop the skills they need to participate in the life of the diverse community in which they live. For example:

Social
There is a high level of staffing at playtimes on the playground to promote appropriate social interaction. Pupils play together in group games and imaginative play on their own and with adults.

- Circle times feature in all classes promoting turn taking and social interaction.
- The PSHE scheme of work contains units on Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World.
- Children learn to be effective communicators through the school's Total Communication approach, including the use of symbols, photos, PECS, technology and where appropriate Makaton.
- Educational visits within the community.

Moral
There is an agreed reward system in place so that all children can earn cubes in the jar and agree the reward as a class for good behaviour as well as academic achievement.

- Certificates for stars of the week and gold awards are handed out at weekly assemblies so that everyone shares in the success.
- Regular meetings are held to discuss difficult behaviour to ensure that all staff are supported and that ideas are shared.
- Behaviour plans are agreed and implemented with the help of the behaviour team.
- The PSHE scheme of work has units dealing with issues to do with rules, negotiating difficult situations, emotions, caring for one another, making and keeping friends, living in a community.

Spiritual

- The RE scheme of work contains units on celebrations, festivals and worship from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism.
- Children are encouraged to take part in periods of reflection at different times throughout the school week.
- Through PSHE and circle time activities, children are helped to gain an understanding of their feelings and emotions and their likely impact on themselves and others.

- Pupils are encouraged to appreciate the awe and wonder of the world around them whenever appropriate occasions arise e.g. looking at beautiful objects, looking for signs of spring on a geography trip, science work on the Earth and beyond.

Cultural

- There are regular celebrations of religious festivals over the year including harvest, Diwali, Christmas, Easter, Eid, and Chinese New Year.
- Geography and RE have units on other cultures and religions.
- English includes units on stories from other cultures.
- All pupils are accepted equally and play an active part in the school community regardless of their colour, religion or gender.
- Children participate in a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities provided by the school.

Where you can find SMSC in Moorside Primary School

- The curriculum as a whole
- The Religious Education Curriculum
- The PSHE Curriculum
- Circle Time
- Assemblies
- Behaviour policy
- Structured and personalised reward systems
- Extra-curricular activities
- Educational visits
- Pupil Voice
- Special days (fundraising, cultural experiences)

British Values

We promote 'British Values' through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which permeates through the school's curriculum and supports the development of the 'whole child'.

We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for our pupils.

The curriculum in all phases offers broad and balanced opportunities.

'British Values' have been identified as:

Democracy:

The ability to understand and communicate are the most important areas of learning. We ensure that pupils are given a 'voice' to communicate. This 'voice' could be using words, objects, photographs, pictures, symbols, signing, eye pointing or body language.

We empower our pupils by giving them opportunities to make choices about the things that they believe to be important. By valuing each 'voice' and by listening and responding to that voice we demonstrate that we support democracy and liberty.

We have an active School Council.

Rule of Law:

We involve pupils in setting codes of behaviour; helping pupils to make decisions and choices that are acceptable to the school community and society at large.

Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Staff are committed to providing a consistent and predictable environment within the school and beyond. We can help many pupils to understand the connection between actions and consequences. This type of environment enables pupils to feel safe and secure; this in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

Individual Liberty:

Pupils are encouraged to become good and valued citizens. We do this by supporting each pupil to become as independent as possible. We endeavour to demonstrate that everyone has rights; this includes the right to say 'Yes' or 'No' to ideas or activities. Many of our pupils will be able to take responsibility for particular roles and to understand that with certain rights come certain responsibilities. Learning to do things independently is an important part of learning to understand yourself. We support others by participating in charitable events such as Red Nose Day/Comic Relief and Children in Need. We believe that engendering a caring and helpful environment and being independent can boost and nurture a healthy self-esteem.

Mutual Respect:
We promote each pupil's inclusion in activities, settings and locations that are appropriate to them individually to meet their needs. Within school, pupils work with a range of people and interactions with others are always positively promoted. This may include working with external coaches, theatre groups etc. The curriculum is personalised and planned for pupils and may include transitioning within the range of resources and places on the site and going into the community to meet with a range of people in a variety of situations which include community events and shared participation with other schools/colleges.

We believe it is important to facilitate opportunities to be part of the community as the pupils, families and staff have much to offer in the development of community cohesion.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs:
We are part of a school and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race.

Cultural appreciation and development forms part of our curriculum. We place great emphasis on providing encounters and participation in events and celebrations to broaden all pupils' experiences and awareness of others.

Our Assemblies help all pupils to find out about themselves and others linking their lives to the communities in which they belong.

Pupils are encouraged to experience British Culture through our curriculum themes. For example, pupils have visited many local places. As a school, we take part in sporting activities which helps to instil 'fair play' and engender a 'team spirit'.

Although some of our pupils may find it difficult to articulate their feelings and concerns; staff are attuned to changes in demeanour and well-being that may indicate anxiety. If they are concerned about a pupil our accepted practice links to the Child Protection Policy which entrusts a duty of care to all staff to actively protect and promote the welfare of children.

The staff work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the pupils at Moorside Primary are happy, well cared for and enabled to learn the skills they need to live a fulfilling life as part of their community.

Date to be implemented	July 2019
Date to be reviewed	July 2020

Appendix 1

SMSC is defined in the Ofsted School inspection handbook August 2016:

The spiritual development of pupils is shown by their:

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

The moral development of pupils is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives, recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

The social development of pupils is shown by their:

- use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; they develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and those of others
- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain School
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socioeconomic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development is the over-arching umbrella that encompasses personal development across the whole curriculum.

Ofsted puts SMSC 'at the heart' of school development. It requires schools to think about the kind of people we aspire to be, the kind of world we aspire to create, and the kind of education we aspire to provide.