



## **Dringhouses Primary School**

# **Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development (SMSC) Policy**

**Signature of Chair of Governors . . . . .**

**Signature of Headteacher . . . . .**

**Date of Adoption:                      Spring 2021**

**Date of Review:                      Spring 2024**

**Reviewing Committee:              Standards & Effectiveness Committee**

**Statutory / **Non-Statutory****

## **SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

At Dringhouses Primary School the promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is considered by the 'whole school'. We believe that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of children is an essential part of their education.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all of the subjects in the curriculum, but also through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values. This development comes not only from the children's school experience, but also equally through home and family, social and recreational groups, and the wider community.

We aim to achieve this through our aims and philosophy:

*Dringhouses Primary School lays the foundations for children to become life-long learners and builds confidence, independence and enthusiasm. We care for, support and value every single child and encourage each one to achieve the highest possible standards through offering an enjoyable and stimulating curriculum which develops creative, enquiring, understanding citizens.*

### **Aims of the School**

#### **To develop citizenship through:**

- Learning life skills including confidence, independence and responsibility
- Learning to have respect for oneself, others and the environment
- Learning to appreciate social, religious and cultural differences
- Recognising and celebrating successes and achievements
- Encouraging a healthy life style

#### **To develop partnership through:**

- Working together with children, staff, parents, governors and the wider community

#### **To educate children by:**

- Providing challenging, stimulating, worthwhile and enjoyable experiences
- Developing enquiring and creative minds
- Encouraging hard work, commitment and self-discipline to maximise potential

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of Dringhouses Primary School, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

## **Dringhouses Primary School**

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development within our school:**

#### **Our Values – the wheel and the 12 ‘Specials’**

Our aim is to ensure the pupils of Dringhouses Primary School leave as Curious, Confident, Considerate, Creative, Courageous, Collaborative and Culturally aware individuals who are able to Choose, Collaborate, Communicate, Connect and Conclude.

A recent additional layer to our 12 C’s approach is the introduction of ‘The 12 Specials Wheel’ which we believe promotes our educational philosophy and exemplifies the aim above - enhancing the rights and responsibilities reflected in our school charter.

The ‘12 Specials’ are assigned to the 12 months of the year and underpin our whole-school assemblies and PSHCE curriculum. Children will be set a task during August to complete the ‘12 Specials of an SMSC child’, which will summarise their holistic journey.

Special People – January

Special Festivals – February

Special Books – March

Special Occasions – April

Special Jobs – May

Special World – June

Special Achievements – July

Special Holidays – August

Special Places – September

Special Charities – October

Special Events – November

Special Beliefs – December

#### **Spirituality**

Spirituality is about our capacity to value and experience the beauty and wonders of our world by loving, caring, persevering and coping with adversity. It need not be confined to what is termed the ‘mystical’ or ‘other worldly’ but is a necessary aspect of human consciousness.

#### **Aims:**

- To develop an understanding that a relationship with other people, animals, and the earth is necessary if we are to determine our identity within the world.
- To help children to develop a set of beliefs that stem from a personal sense of self worth and recognition of their own uniqueness.

#### **Objectives for Spiritual Development:**

- To develop questioning and reasoning skills
- To develop imagination
- To develop individual self confidence
- To encourage quiet thinking time throughout the school day

- To encourage difference and uniqueness

This will be achieved through encouraging curiosity, confidence, reflection and questioning skills. Children are encouraged to ask the 'Big Questions'.

## **Morality**

Morality implies the ability to make decisions about our own behaviour, the attitudes and likely reactions of others, and the consequences of our actions. Moral development helps pupils to distinguish between right and wrong whilst developing their own moral code.

### **Aims:**

- To develop an understanding of the moral code and the factors which influence it.
- To help pupils grow towards an understanding of themselves and their own code of behaviour.

### **Objectives for Moral Development:**

- 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 of own actions
- To exercise self discipline
- To develop high expectations and a positive attitude
- To conform to rules and regulations

This will be achieved through positive choices, communication, classroom relationships, playground behaviour and through PSHCE, where pupils will be helped to see that we should not condemn the actions of others or ourselves without careful consideration. The school has set up a 'Sports Council' to help promote a positive environment on the school playground where older children model how to treat others.

## **Social Development**

Social development enables pupils to make informed decisions about their level of participation in groups and to do so effectively whilst developing an awareness of the needs of others and self. Pupils need to realise that individuals are interdependent. They must learn to understand the implications of their actions, both long and short term, for themselves, for other individuals, for the whole group and for society.

### **Aims:**

- To help pupils gain self esteem, confidence and assertiveness.
- To give opportunities for pupils to take on responsibilities as individuals and within groups.
- To develop awareness of how groups function and to contribute to the life of the school.

## **Objectives for Social Development**

- To share emotions such as love, joy, hope and fear
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others
- To work as part of a group
- To interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, visits, church services, whole school gatherings etc.
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a 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

This will be achieved through collaboration and connection by giving pupils the opportunity to play a part in decision making within the school, e.g. School Council, and to be sensitive to the needs of others. Opportunities will be given to contribute to the work of small and large groups in the classroom and to develop Pupil Voice. The school has also taken part in the Children's University where pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of after school activities. The school offers a range of extra-curricular activities to promote pupils' Social Development.

## **Cultural Development**

Cultural development enables pupils to understand how their culture has influenced and made them who they are. It should permeate all areas of the curriculum and school life. Cultural development will help our children consider their own sense of identity within a range of communities (home, school, Dringhouses, York, England, UK), which vary in terms of size and nature.

### **Aims**

- To widen and deepen pupils grasp of local and world cultures.
- To enable pupils to enjoy, question and make informed judgements about the cultural opportunities offered to them.

## **Objectives for Cultural Development**

- To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts, i.e. Music, Art, Drama, Literature etc.
- To develop a love for learning
- 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
- To develop the ability to value these independently

This will be achieved through cultural awareness and consideration by providing a range of learning experiences in which cultural diversity is examined (e.g. in studies of art, music, local history, literature; by providing opportunities for younger children to play with a range of toys, dolls etc).

## **Monitoring and Assessment**

Informal assessment is primarily through observation of pupil behaviour, the views pupils express and through discussion amongst staff.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is evidenced through the use of the '12 Specials' wheels around school. Staff observe how children respond to one another, how well children listen and turn take, how children take responsibility for their own actions and how well children respond to different cultural experiences and traditions. Class teachers are responsible for responding to the comments on their class wheel and praising children in accordance with the school behaviour policy.

Please also refer to the Behaviour Policy, Religious Education Policy and Equality Statement.