



## **STRETTON HANDLEY CE (VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL (SMSC) POLICY**

*This policy is to be read in conjunction with the PSHE policy, Anti bullying policy, Spiritual Development policy and RSE policy.*

### **Introduction**

At Stretton Handley CE (VC) Primary School the children are encouraged to develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and to begin to make personal decisions and choices, which reflect this development. Opportunities for the children to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally are provided throughout the curriculum, during recreation periods, in collective worship, at lunchtime and during extra-curricular activities.

### **Aims and purpose**

Stretton Handley CE (VC) Primary School is a Church of England school whose ethos is founded on Christian teaching and values and in particular recognises the uniqueness and worth of each individual member of the school, both children and adults alike, all of whom are loved by God. With this in mind the aim of the school is to encourage children to reflect this love by learning to understand and respect the various beliefs, traditions and practices of others, both within the school and the wider community. Our purpose is to ensure that pupils leave us with a maturing understanding of the experiences and values of others and a growing sense of identity based on personal values and self-worth within a diverse community.

**Spiritual development** involves the nurture of a fundamental aspect of the human condition that is not necessarily able to be expressed through the physical senses or in words. It involves relationships, with the divine for those who believe, and with other human beings and the natural world. It recognises the universal search for personal identity, the challenges of responding to difficult experiences and the need to find meaning and purpose in life. (See Spiritual Development Policy 2020)

**Moral and Social development** encourages a growing awareness that one is part of a wider society in which an individual has values and responsibilities towards others and may assume certain rights. It involves an understanding that obedience to laws and rules plays an important part in enabling society to function effectively for the benefit of all. It encourages the acquisition of positive values and beliefs as a foundation for living and the basis for good decision making.

**Cultural development** enhances understanding of the role of traditions, customs, religious practice and artistic expression in giving identity to groups of people. It involves exploring how these combine to create a rich diversity of experience in our

*Approved by Governors:*

*Review Date:*

community and builds increasingly harmonious relationships with others in the wider world.

### **Implementation of the SMSC policy aims**

To encourage spiritual development, the school will provide opportunities for children- see Spiritual Development Policy 2020.

To encourage moral and social development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- develop a sense of right and wrong in a supportive environment
- develop self-esteem and take responsibility for one's own actions
- be aware of the needs of others and develop empathy
- discuss the need for rules and sanctions and adherence to the school code
- understand the role of forgiveness and generosity towards others
- form judgments about appropriate courses of action
- work collaboratively in a group or team
- celebrate personal achievement and the success of others
- assume responsibility and develop early leadership skills
- engage with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect.
- Understand the importance of tolerating those with different faiths and beliefs
- Have knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain;

To encourage cultural development, the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- explore a range of multi-cultural themes through literature, art, music, dance, religious education and worship
- participate in visits to places of cultural interest e.g. art galleries, museums, theatre productions and places of worship
- to engage with artists, musicians, dancers, story-tellers and religious representatives who visit the school
- participate in school and community events such as fund-raising events and charitable activities.

### **Links with the wider community**

Stretton Handley CE (VC) Primary School has close links with the community and has a close link with St Mark's Church and its tradition of participation in the life of the local and wider community. These links foster an attitude of care and concern in pupils, who commit themselves readily to such activities as fund raising for local, national or international events, such as, distribution of harvest collection to the local food bank, creating Christmas shoe boxes for children in Africa. Participation in

national events such as Children in Need, Red Nose Day and Sport Relief. The school's choir participates in local choral events, the children take part in district sports events and the school plays an important part in the life and celebrations of the church.

### **Resources**

The school provides a range of resources expressing the diversity of cultures represented in our school and the community. Literacy texts, art stimuli, music, religious artefacts and the use of foreign languages reflect the school's aims of giving access to cultural diversity in the teaching of the curriculum. Residential trips, special focus days/weeks, educational visits and specialist visitors to the school offer particular opportunities for the SMSC aims to be pursued.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The provision of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education at Stretton Handley CE (VC) Primary School is monitored by the Head teacher in liaison with the Religious Education subject leader.