



# Meopham Community Academy



*Enjoy, Learn, Aspire*

## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

This policy was reviewed by: Paul Hale, Deputy Headteacher
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Next Review Date: May 2022

## Definitions

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) is defined as:

- **Spiritual** development is shown by the pupils' exploration into their own beliefs and their interest in and respect of different faiths, feeling and beliefs. Spiritual development also explores the pupils' enjoyment in learning about themselves, others and the world around them and using their imaginations and creative skills in their learning.
- **Moral** development is about the pupils' recognising right and wrong/legal boundaries in society and using this knowledge to build a framework of values in their own lives.
- **Social** development is the development of pupils' social skills when interacting with their fellow pupils' from whatever background. Social development can also be demonstrated by pupils' having an understanding, acceptance and engagement in British values, democracy, law and mutual respect of others.
- **Cultural** development is the development of pupils' understanding and appreciation of their own culture and heritage and a wide-range of others. Part of their cultural development is also explored through developing a knowledge and understanding of the British Parliamentary system and its role in shaping modern Britain. Their cultural development can also be demonstrated by their willingness to participate in sporting, musical and artistic opportunities. As pupils' develop they gain an interest in understanding and respecting different faiths, belief systems and cultural diversity in their school, their local area, national and global communities.

## Aims

The aims of a SMSC education are:

- to provide pupils at Meopham Community Academy with an education not just focused on academic areas but include learning how to work and play together; how to listen to and respect their fellow pupil points of view.
- to enable them to participate positively in the life of their school, their local community and wider society not only during their time at Meopham Community Academy but throughout their adult lives too.
- to encourage pupils to value themselves and their contributions to school life and the world around them and to value and celebrate fellow pupil abilities, points of view and achievements in a positive, encouraging manner.

## How do we provide an SMSC education at our school?

SMSC at Meopham Community Academy forms part of our school ethos and value set. It is delivered through:

- daily teaching across the curriculum.
- extra-curricular opportunities (sports clubs, art club) and non-classroom-based activities within the school diary such as whole school assemblies and workshops/talks from external providers.
- Behaviour Management and PSHCE policies.

## In the Classroom

An understanding of a SMSC education is developed through learning opportunities across the curriculum. For example:

- the RE curriculum which includes regular opportunity for pupils to develop their **spiritual** thinking, e.g. by discussing their own beliefs and improving their knowledge and understanding of other belief systems across the world.
- the English curriculum which gives pupils opportunities to build on their **moral** development through work in writing balanced arguments, writing from the point of view of others and reading and studying fables and other traditional morality tales.
- the PSHE curriculum which helps develop **spiritual** awareness and encourages a reflective attitude when learning and beginning to understand the differences between people of other cultures with different beliefs to our own.
- the History curriculum which develops and begins to cement pupil appreciation of their heritage and the origins and reasons for why **culture** and society is shaped and how it may have influenced our lives.
- group work, peer feedback and evaluation when **social** skills are used and developed. Being able to take on board and provide constructive feedback with a considered and mature approach benefits **social** development.

## Outside the Classroom

The following is not an exhaustive record of the opportunities available for pupils at Meopham.

SMSC skills and understanding are developed through:

- Class representatives of the pupil council, playground friends (Year 5) and peer mediators (Year 6) and the eco-warriors provide our children with the opportunity to appreciate the **moral** codes of the school, and therefore supports their moral development.
- Whole-school, class assemblies and special theme weeks are used for the promotion of **moral** values (for example anti-bullying week, recycling, online safety initiatives, Children in Need Day).
- At Christmas our school choir attend a local retirement home to entertain residents with a carol concert encouraging **social** and **moral** understanding by valuing all members of society.
- Educational visits, and in particular residential visits (in Year 4 and Year 6) involve the development and improvement of many **social** skills for pupils.
- A range of musical and creative performances (such as the Year 6 production, Christmas productions for KS1 and KS2, our annual talent show, class assemblies) provide opportunities for pupils to develop **social** and **cultural** development through team

working and an appreciation and recognition of historical events and figures that have shaped modern society.

- Sports teams (cricket, football, hockey, netball and basketball) require **social** development through shared effort.
- The school's celebrations of other **cultures** and traditions such as Bastille Day, Diwali, and Chinese New Year.

## Working with the School Community

We encourage and embrace participation in fund raising for both national and local charitable concerns e.g. fundraising for local cancer charity hospice, Gravesham Food Bank, Comic Relief, Salvation Army gift donation service etc where children take responsibility to help others through fundraising activities and gift donations.

It is important that parents support and understand our approach to nurturing the spiritual, cultural, moral and social development of pupils. We encourage parental involvement through our welcoming atmosphere, up-to-date school news on our website, class assemblies and Year Group Open Afternoons to which parents are invited and are most welcome.

Parents' are also encouraged to attend and assist teaching staff on educational visits and attend our Term 2 and Term 6 'Thank You' assembly where the children sing for the parents who have helped the school over the academic year. We also invite parents to attend meetings in the run up to Year 4 and Year 6 residential visits in order that they gain a deeper understanding of the social and cultural benefits of these visits that the school arranges.

Our School Governors are invited to attend our school Christmas productions presented by Foundation Stage/KS1 and Years 3 and 4. In liaison with the Reverend, our Year 5 and Year 6 children perform a Christmas carol concert in our local Church of England church (St. John the Baptist) for their families.