



**CHARLESWORTH SCHOOL**  
*...from tiny acorns great oaks grow*

# Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Dimension Policy



## **Rationale**

Charlesworth School has a clear ethos that is founded on Christian teaching and values and celebrates the uniqueness and worth of each individual. We recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We will therefore provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures. The school will ensure that children should understand how the culture(s) in which they live influences individual thinking.

## **Aims and Objectives**

The main aim of the school is to encourage children to reflect God's love for us learning to understand and respect the various beliefs, traditions and practices of others, both within the school and 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 with the community.

High quality teaching and learning across wide range of social and cultural contexts will be planned to specifically identify the principles of SMSC and help the school to achieve it's curriculum vision to ensure that our pupils:

- Develop a sense of awe and wonder
- Become articulate in communicating their ideas and in listening to and considering the ideas of those around them
- Are able to take informed risks in their learning
- Develop the wisdom to constructively challenge perceptions, opinions and actions in order to embed their learning
- Have a secure understanding of and actively practice values promoted by the Christian faith

Staff should model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people equally as unique and valuable individuals and showing concern and respect for pupils and their families. The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school. Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong. They should be aware that their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others. Pupils will be encouraged to understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom responsibilities reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate students' work and achievements.

At Charlesworth School we seek to:

- Ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- Ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues throughout the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- Ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- Ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
- Give pupils a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- Enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- Give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a social and moral responsibility.

**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.

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable our pupils to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Feel happiness, pride, forgiveness and responsibility
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Exercise their capacity for creativity, curiosity, questioning and exploring
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Empathise with others at times of joy and tragedy
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

**Moral and Social development** encourages a growing awareness of the individuals part of a wider society with a mix of responsibilities and rights. It involves an understanding that obedience to laws and rules plays an important part in enabling society to function effectively for all. It encourages the acquisition of positive values and beliefs as a foundation for living and the basis for good decision making.

At Charlesworth School, we will provide learning opportunities for our pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements
- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about service in the school and wider community.
- Contribute confidently to the well-being of friendship groups and the wider community Learn to work with others for the common good

**Cultural development** enhances understanding of the role of traditions, customs, religious practice and artistic expression in giving identity to groups of people. It enables pupils to appreciate that creativity and imagination is stronger because of the communities and society to which they belong. It involves exploring how these combine to create a rich diversity of experience in our community and builds increasingly harmonious relationships with others in the wider world.

At Charlesworth School, we will provide learning opportunities for our pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how this has influenced individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.
- Explore the importance of the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs (see Appendix A) and how these have influenced the world we live in today.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher retain overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy across the school. They will also ensure that high quality teaching and learning is provided in line with the Teaching and Learning Policy (available to download from the school website).

They will, in discussion with the Subject Leader and the link governor ensure that this policy is reviewed according to the governor policy review schedule.

### **Subject Leader**

The role of the Subject Leader is to provide professional leadership and management in order to secure high quality teaching and learning, effective use of resources and high standards of achievement for all pupils. They will regularly monitor various aspects of SMSC across the curriculum, e.g., planning, assessments, marking and pupil interviews.

### **Teachers**

The teacher is responsible for delivering learning opportunities across curriculum in line with this policy.

### **Governors**

Governors, with the support of the Headteacher, are responsible for ensuring that the opportunities for developing SMSC across the curriculum happen. They are also responsible for ensuring the monitoring and review of the SMSC Policy occurs in line with the governor policy review schedule.

The designated link governor will meet with the curriculum Subject Leader at least once a year to discuss how the policy is implemented, how resources are allocated and how well the pupils achieve.

### **Parents**

Parents are key partners in the pastoral support and development of pupils at Charlesworth School. They will be encouraged to be active participants in home learning through homework tasks, dialogue with teachers and parent information open evenings.

## **Teaching and Organisation**

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle. Teaching across the school will encourage the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally - e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc.

To encourage **spiritual development** the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore the Christian faith and begin to compare with other faiths

- Develop a sense of wonder, awe, mystery and joy
- Listen, reflect and puzzle
- Examine their own feelings, likes and dislikes, and compare these with others
- Develop personal beliefs and values and respect those of others
- Develop insight into questions of life, death and change
- Respond to situations of suffering and hardship
- Express doubt, fears and pose questions
- Express feelings, responses and insights through creative media

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 and value
- Understand the role of forgiveness and generosity towards others
- Form judgements about appropriate courses of actions
- Work collaboratively in a group or team
- Celebrate personal achievement and the success of others
- Assume responsibility and develop early leadership skills and roles

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
- Perform to an audience or speak publicly in a drama production, religious festival or school forum
- Participate in school and community events such as fayres, fund-raising events and charitable activities

### **Charlesworth School and the Local Community**

Charlesworth School has close links to the community of Charlesworth, Chisworth and its wider catchment areas. We have very close ties to our foundation churches and other denominations in the locality. The school has a tradition of active 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 charitable causes, supporting the 'Friends of Charlesworth School' fundraising events; collecting for local foodbanks and refugees; participating in the annual service of Remembrance at the war memorial and carol singing in the community.

The school plays an integral part in the life and celebrations of the wider Christian community. Members of the church communities lead weekly Open Worship to which parents are invited. An 'Open the Book' team lead assemblies and the children take part in Harvest, Christmas and Easter celebrations at the local churches (e.g., Experience Easter).

The school facilities are used frequently outside of school hours for a variety of extended opportunities. We provide a very successful Breakfast Club and a wide range of after school activities including sports, dance and conservation. The Foundation Churches use the buildings for Sunday School and uniformed organisations. The 'Friends of Charlesworth School' organize some highly successful events both in the school and other local venues. These include Family Film Nights, Book Café's, and Quiz nights where the wider community are welcomed to join the school community.

### **Considerations for Transition**

As the school is split across two sites that are several hundred metres apart, we work hard to ensure a shared and distinct identity as members of a single school community. This is achieved through whole school days where all the children experience a theme day on the junior site. There are also several opportunities for children to visit the opposite site e.g., celebration of learning through class concerts. At Charlesworth School we have a structured approach to transition from KS1 to KS2 as it also involves moving between buildings. This is especially important for vulnerable children for who the sense of identity and supportive community is vital.

### **Resources**

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

### **Monitoring and Review**

The Headteacher and Governing Body will review the implementation of the SMSC Policy in line with the agreed schedule for policy review.

Staff and governors will be involved and asked to contribute to the review and all staff will be informed of the outcome of the review.







# Appendices

# Appendix A

## British values at Charlesworth Primary School

The UK Government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy. The DfE has recently reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values.'

These are:

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Charlesworth Primary School we are committed to serving our community and local area. In so doing we reinforce British values regularly and in the following ways:

### **Democracy:**

Democratic values are an explicit part of the ethos at Charlesworth School. All adults listen to the views of the pupils and value their opinions. Pupils have further opportunity to have their voices heard through our Pupil Leadership Team and through Pupil Voice interviews. The election of the Pupil Leadership Team is the result of pupil votes and this group canvases the opinions of its peers regularly.

### **The Rule of Law:**

The importance of laws and rules are consistently reinforced in the classroom, as well as through school assemblies. Pupils are taught to understand the need for laws - that they are there for individual protection, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Pupils follow a positive behaviour policy and clearly understand the rewards and sanctions that are used. Assemblies and discussions in class focus on recognising right from wrong. Visits from the Police, Fire Service and local councillors and other elected members (such as our MP) help to reinforce these messages.

### **Individual Liberty:**

Pupils are encouraged to be independent learners, constantly making choices, within a safe and supportive environment. Developing their self-esteem and self-confidence is very important. Pupils are encouraged to understand their personal freedoms and are taught how to use these rights to best effect. All pupils are given regular opportunities to support charities - local, national and global. They are taught consideration for others through our Religious Education curriculum and PSHE lessons in particular. E-safety teaching and discussions about personal safety enable them to make choices in a safe manner.

**Mutual Respect:**

Our school's ethos and values are based on Christian principles of Love, Peace, Truth and Justice. Assemblies regularly promote respect for others and the importance of how we treat ourselves and those around us. All pupils are taught the importance of self-respect, honest and open communication with others and fair play. Pupils work collaboratively and value others' opinions.

**Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs:**

Pupils are reminded of their place in a culturally diverse society. This is achieved through our Religious Education curriculum and the spiritual life of the school. Assemblies, class work and a whole school emphasis on Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education (SMSC) helps promote the diversity of society and the right for each person to be respected and valued equally regardless of ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. Members of different faiths or religions are invited to school to share their knowledge and enhance learning and we will plan visits to places of worship of major world faiths to help our pupils towards a better knowledge and understanding.

