



St Edward's
RC/CE VA School

POLICY FOR SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Reviewed and Approved by Pastoral Governors

On: 16 June 2016

Reviewed and Ratified at the St Edward's FGB

On: 7 July 2016

Next review date: June 2018

Member of SLT responsible: Mr C Farrow

School Aims

St Edward's aims to contribute to the spiritual, mental, physical and emotional development of each young person, helping to develop the Christian person in response to the call of Christ.

St Edward's as a Roman Catholic and Church of England Voluntary aided comprehensive school has its distinctive character laid out in the School Mission Statement and School Covenant. The development of the whole person 'made in the image of God' is very important. In all aspects of school life we are encouraged to 'do nothing apart that we can do together to serve your purposes of Justice, Love and Peace.'

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

In order to enable all to progress along their personal Journey of Faith, encouraging all to grow in their response to God and to discern what that implies for their lives

We aim to:

- provide opportunities to develop the skills of reflection, prayer and worship
- provide opportunities to reflect on the world we live in and our relationships within it
- encourage creativity throughout our community
- promote self esteem through the valuing of all achievements and their celebration
- reflect on important questions of meaning and purpose as part of God's creation
- help students to develop an appreciation of God's love and its implications

Objectives:

- to provide a daily act of collective Christian worship
- to offer opportunities for openness and enquiry
- to encourage the development of gifts and talents
- to explore personal beliefs and values in relation to human experiences

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

In order to develop the skills, based on Gospel values, of knowing how to behave and act, and the reasons for such behaviour

We aim to:

- provide a moral framework based on the teachings of Jesus and the Church.
- guide students to be able to reach moral decisions based on Gospel values, and to be able to explore the distinctions between right and wrong
- to encourage the development of personal values based on the teachings of Jesus and the Church

Objectives:

- to encourage students to have the highest standards in behaviour and relationships, promoted by the school charter and learning agreement
- to develop awareness of moral issues locally, nationally and globally
- to develop the skills needed for moral decision making
- to engage in discussion with open mindedness, showing respect for the sincere views of others

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

In order to develop skills to enable an individual to interact appropriately and confidently, with competencies necessary to play a full part in society

We aim to:

- promote the skills needed to enable students to make good relationships with individuals and within groups
- use teaching and learning styles which teach and encourage social skills
- provide opportunities to learn about the society we live in and its institutions

Objectives:

- to ensure a variety of teaching and learning styles across the curriculum to develop social skills e.g. leadership, co-operation, team work
- to give opportunities to students to exercise responsibility within the school community
- provide additional support as needed, for social development of some students

What is SMSC?

SMSC stands for spiritual, moral, social and cultural and Ofsted have defined these terms in this way:

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, readily apply this understanding in their own lives 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 being able 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, including working and socialising with pupils 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; the pupils 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 that 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
- 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, 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 socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

SMSC and British Values at St Edward's School

As a joint Roman Catholic, Church of England school St Edward's is committed to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all students.

These elements are integral to and delivered across the entire curriculum and beyond with particular emphasis placed upon supporting and promoting fundamental British values including

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

This was recognised by our denominational inspection, which wrote in 2010:

Pupils make a good contribution to the Christian life of the school and are enriched as people because of it. They are reflective and enquiring and appreciative of the importance of religious belief and spiritual values. They are interested in the religious life of others and are comfortable talking about their own beliefs. This attitude of

openness has helped underpin the effectiveness of the school as an ecumenical community. (Denominational Inspection June 2010)

Furthermore, Ofsted wrote of us last year that:

Students' good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is evident in many areas of the school, particularly in the calm, considerate and positive ethos. There are good opportunities for students to reflect on their beliefs and those of others, particularly in assemblies. (Ofsted 2013)

Personal & Social Responsibility

The ethics committee lead the school in their mission to raise money and awareness of causes and charities. These are chosen by the students and they take pride in their achievements.

Individual Liberty

Students are encouraged to have their own voice, and all students are encouraged to listen to and value the thoughts and feelings of others.

Through the options process and extra curricular clubs and activities students are given choices that will affect their own pathway.

The tolerance and acceptance of those of different faiths and beliefs

Throughout the school day students have opportunities to work together and consider the needs, feeling and views of others around them. As a joint church school we affirm the importance of understanding and respecting those who belong to all faiths and none and the beliefs they hold, and further celebrate all that is good in others and their beliefs that is consistent with the Christian Faith. This is further encouraged in Collective Worship and exploring the views of others in PSHE and RE.

Supporting, promoting & celebrating fundamental British values at St Edward's

Democracy

Voting and the British government is covered in the curriculum in History & PSHE.

The student council is elected through tutor groups and year groups. All students are involved in the election process and learn through being a part of the process.

Mutual Respect

Mutual respect is encouraged by our Learning Agreement which was written by student representatives on the School Council in 2013-14, and agreed by all tutor groups. It is on display in all classrooms. Students are encouraged to have restorative meetings with staff and peers when a relationship has broken down or encountered a challenge.

The rule of Law

English law is promoted in curricular areas for example History and RE, and is explored through PSHE and tutor time with especial relevance to issues affecting our students for example Sexting. We regularly engage with the Safer Schools Community Team who come in to deliver to year groups or small groups of students.

