



## Woodseaves CE Academy

### Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

#### Rationale

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child is recognised as being of fundamental importance for the education of all children by Governors, staff and parents of our school. It is taught through all subjects of the curriculum and in particular RE. It supports all areas of learning and can contribute to the child's motivation to learn. It is recognised that such development will be most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by the staff provide a model of behaviour for the children. It enriches the individual's appreciation of life's experiences and their relationships with others.

#### General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To 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.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

#### SMSC at Woodseaves CE Primary Academy

Our status as a Church of England school is fundamental to our ethos and purpose. We expect all our staff to support our Christian ethos and aims.

Our mission statement states:

*At Woodseaves CE Academy everyone and everything is valued, appreciated and **respected**. We aim to provide an **inspiring**, happy, caring and safe learning environment within a*

*Christian ethos, where all our children thrive, **achieve** their potential and are ready for the next stage of their learning journey*

*This is supported by our aims as a Church of England School:*

*At Woodseaves we express the love of God through our shared Christian values which we hope will build character and inform attitudes and behaviours in our children consistent with the teaching of Christ.*

We achieve this by:

- fostering the values, attributes and lifestyles that a Christian faith demands in the family, among friends, in the school and in the wider community;
- creating an environment for staff and pupils that is happy stimulating and supportive in which core values and beliefs of high expectations can flourish;
- providing an appropriate balanced education designed to help each pupil reach their potential;
- ensuring that all staff have access to development opportunities in keeping with the needs of the school and individuals' expertise to enhance the educational opportunities for our children;
- providing effective management and organisation within the school to give clear guidance for its direction;
- nurture the partnership role between School, Governors, Parents, Church and the wider community for the benefit of the children we are jointly responsible for;

At Woodseaves we believe that learning encompasses far more than just the subject areas of the National Curriculum. In support of this aim, our curriculum provides children with a range of opportunities to respond to spiritual, moral, social and cultural experiences. SMSC contributes to other areas of education and human experience and plays an important part of the wider programme of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

- Spiritual - widening pupils' vision of themselves and their own experience, within the context of a growing awareness and understanding of God.
- Moral - helping each pupil develop their own informed values.
- Social - helping pupils understand some major forces shaping the values in our society.
- Cultural - aiding pupils in exploring aspects of their own cultural heritage, and in developing positive attitudes towards diversity.

Additional links will be found across the curriculum especially with RE, Citizenship, and PSHE, behaviour and pastoral care. SMSC can also make a positive contribution to enhancing creativity and enjoyment and ensure the well-being of all pupils.

## **Spiritual Development**

What is Spirituality and why is it important?

If the spiritual is to be developed it is important to recognise what is meant by the spiritual. It is a universal human characteristic and activity. All cultures exhibit a variety of languages and expressions of spirituality, which may be within a religious or non-religious framework. Typically spirituality focuses around the aspects of life that are not entirely dealt with by consideration from rational, practical or instrumental approaches. Events or processes that challenge or threaten beliefs and attitudes often prompt spirituality. It seeks to answer questions about meaning and purpose in life. The spiritual may be seen as a search for the meaning in life through an awareness of inner feelings, beliefs and experiences. To be spiritual may be equated with being spiritually moved. However, for church schools the spiritual cannot be confined to an exploration of the personal, practical and emotional. The spiritual should encourage individuals to respond to ultimate questions and values in relation to the Christian faith in God. There should be opportunities to develop the inner capacity in relationship with the love of God revealed through His son Jesus Christ.

At Woodseaves CE Academy we believe:

Spiritual development can give learners a strong sense of personal ownership of their thoughts and actions. They can develop a carefully considered understanding of the world in which they live, of the choices that are available to them, their own attitudes towards the opinions and actions of others and how they wish to conduct their own lives. This can build high levels of self-worth.

Spirituality is enriched at Woodseaves CE Academy by developing:

- a strong sense of celebration showing the school is vibrant and 'alive;'
- a climate where pupils and staff understand their own self-worth and are willing to take risks and learn from failure;
- an environment where all members of the school community are encouraged to be self-aware and attentive, not rushing around all the time;
- a reflective physical space where pupils and staff can stop, reflect and recharge;
- collective worship which is highly valued, with time for silent prayer and reflection embedded;
- the opportunity for pupils to plan and lead collective worship;
- a curriculum where pupils ask big questions and teachers are confident to facilitate this, e.g. 'What does this mean to me?' 'How would it be if everyone behaved in this way?' Showing that it is not always possible to provide an absolute answer and at such times it is a positive experience to value a variety of interpretations and responses;
- an environment which values wholeness and affirmation;
- a sense of belonging through relationships and with the wider school community and Diocesan family, e.g. acts of worship held in the community setting; pupils attending cathedral days, headteacher attending Diocesan conferences;
- opportunities in the curriculum where a spiritual vocabulary is developed, e.g. use of symbolism; myth; religious language; music; dance;
- fostering emotional well-being by encouraging children to express their feelings and yet to have the ability to control their emotional behaviour;
- developing the capacity for evaluative reasoning and critical thought by encouraging children to look beyond the surface.

## **Moral Development**

Moral development is defined as “the development of a set of values which informs our knowledge of what is right and wrong”.

At Woodseaves CE Academy we believe moral development is concerned with:

- developing the child’s awareness and understanding of the moral code of the communities in which they live; these may or may not be statutory;
- helping the child to realise that to enjoy rights we have to accept responsibilities;
- developing the child’s understanding of why rules are necessary;
- developing the child’s self-discipline so that rules are observed as a point of principle and not out of the fear of sanctions;
- giving the child the knowledge and ability to question and to reason so that they are capable of deciding on the most appropriate action after considering its consequences;
- develop the skills necessary to explain their own behaviour;
- value physical well-being, privacy, feelings, beliefs and rights of others.

Moral Development is enriched at Woodseaves CE Academy by:

- ensuring everyone demonstrates respect at all times;
- having a consensus of values that are stated clearly and owned by everyone, especially the children and involving the child in the evaluation of these;
- recognising the challenge of Jesus' teaching and seek to apply to their own lives;
- encouraging everyone within the school to behave in an acceptable way towards one another;
- helping children to understand the consequences of their actions;
- supporting children to see how faith can inform the moral values, choices and actions of themselves and others;
- ensuring that children have opportunities to learn about life choices and to develop a feeling of responsibility for themselves and others;

At our school our Moral Code is underpinned by our Woodseaves Code:

- ✓ Make good choices
- ✓ Listen to others and respect their opinion
- ✓ Remember to be polite
- ✓ Look for the best in people
- ✓ Be proud to be yourself

## **Social Development**

Social Development is defined as “the ability to consider ourselves as part of community at many levels – home, school, nation”.

At Woodseaves CE Academy we believe social development is concerned with:

- enabling children to develop and use a range of social skills;
- promoting the joy of friendship and teamwork;
- encouraging children to cooperate, consider the views of others and work collaboratively;
- developing a sense of belonging to the school, local community and beyond;
- appreciating diverse viewpoints;
- helping to resolve conflict and encouraging problem solving;
- engaging with the British values of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance;

Social Development is enriched at Woodseaves CE Academy by:

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- develop an understanding of their individual and group identity;
- function well as part of their school community so that they experience positive well-being;
- learn about service in the school and wider community;
- begin to understand the Christian values of social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged;
- provide opportunities to contribute to fundraising that make a difference to those in need locally, nationally and internationally;

### **Cultural Development**

We acknowledge Britain as a multi-cultural country which forms part of our global village. In our school we want children to feel grounded in a sense of their own community's culture. Alongside this, we want children to understand diversity and respect for all cultures.

Woodseaves CE Primary Academy aims to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- recognise the enduring value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society;
- understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity;
- develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment;
- develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions;
- develop an understanding that cultures are dynamic and are constantly being re-shaped;
- grow into safe, caring, democratic, responsible and tolerant adults who make a positive difference to British Society and to the world.

The School will promote cultural development through:

- exposing children to a wealth of stimuli from a variety of cultures. This will be taught through the whole curriculum;

- promote values through our Collective Worship which encourage empathy, understanding and tolerance of others;
- encourage positive role models and dispel stereotypes of particular cultures and/or peoples;
- visits out of school and visitors to the school will support this teaching;
- encouraging tolerance and appreciation of the beliefs, values and customs of different cultures;

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