

Fairisle Infant and Nursery School



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

Date of policy: September 2024

To be reviewed again: September 2027



FAIRISLE INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy (SMSC)

**“Every child has the right to think and believe what they want”
Article 14 UNICEF Rights of the Child**

At Fairisle Infant and Nursery School the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child is recognised as being of fundamental importance for the education of all children. The SMSC provision supports our Mission Statement and the development of the whole child.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is the over-arching umbrella that encompasses personal development across the curriculum. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted through all of the subjects of the school, as well as through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values.

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

Principles

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is crucial for individual pupils and it is crucial for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about – helping pupils grow and develop as people.

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.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is cross curricular and promotes the aims and principles of the policies for PHSE, RE and Equality in particular.

It is an expectation at our school that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils through the curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies, e.g. discussion, reflection, circle time etc.

The importance of relationships between all school staff, governors and parents is crucial. These relationships will be characterised by mutual respect, by positive attitudes, by the willingness to listen and be listened to and by the valuing of all pupils.

Promoting British Values

Fairisle Infant and Nursery School is a Rights Respecting School linked to UNICEF and the CRC. We actively promote the fundamental British Values of:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

In promoting children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, we are able to actively promote both the CRC and British Values in ways that are appropriate to primary school children.

Spiritual Development

This relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It has to do with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs. It is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith and spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone.

Intent for Spiritual Development

- The ability to listen and be still
- The ability to reflect on their own experiences
- The ability to sense awe, wonder, mystery and joy in the world
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships

Objectives for Spiritual Development

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- To develop the skill to use all ones' senses
- To develop imagination and creativity in their learning
- To encourage times for quiet reflection throughout the school day
- To develop individual self confidence
- To consider the wonders of this world

Moral Development

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At Fairisle Infant and Nursery School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly accountable and respectful for their own actions and behaviour.

Intent for Moral Development

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions

- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong and to readily accept this understanding in their own lives
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their behaviour and actions
- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking accountability for their own moral decisions.

Objectives for Moral Development

- To tell the truth
- To respect the rights and property of others
- To help others less fortunate than themselves
- To be considerate to others
- To take accountability of own actions
- To exercise self-discipline
- To conform to rules and regulations to promote order for the good of all

Social Development

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local and wider community. Within this there should be a balance of the positive elements of belonging to a group or society with the demands, obligations and cooperation such membership requires.

Intent for Social Development

- To relate positively to each other
- To participate fully and take part in class and school activities
- To use appropriate behaviour across a range of situations
- To work cooperatively with others
- To understand our place in our family, school and society

Objectives for Social Development

- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others
- To work as part of a group
- To interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, off-site visits, church visits
- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being part of a caring community
- To show care and consideration for others, e.g. sharing and turn taking
- To realise that every individual can do something well and have something to offer

Cultural Development

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others. The promotion of British values is central to the school's work.

Intent for Cultural Development

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background
- To respond to cultural events
- To share different cultural experiences
- To respect different cultural traditions
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural traditions
- To enable children to consider the effects religion has on peoples' lives

Objectives for Cultural Development

- To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts, i.e. Music, Art, Drama, Literature etc.
- To develop an understanding of different cultures and beliefs, including Christianity
- To appreciate the values and customs of other ethnic and faiths groups which make up the British society, and the world beyond.
- To accept and celebrate our similarities and differences.

Implementation

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. SMSC links are made within class learning 'experiences'.

Class discussions and circle time (this is a time when the class works together to discuss an issue or concern) will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings.
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others.
- Consider others needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally – e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness

Impact

Children are happy and value themselves and others as unique individuals.

Children have the skills to collaborate critically, respectfully and creatively with each other and with a caring approach.

Children are able to reflect upon their behaviour and others and can evaluate what makes for good behaviour.

Children of all abilities achieve in all lessons.

Children have the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

Children have developed a good understanding of British Values They make a positive contribution as responsible citizens.

Monitoring

Informal monitoring is primarily through observation of pupil behaviour, their responses to and participation in activities, the views that pupils express, the work they produce across the curriculum and through discussion amongst staff.