

# St. John Bosco RC Primary School



## SMSC Policy

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## SMSC Policy

### INTRODUCTION

At St. John Bosco RC Primary School, Jesus Christ is our role model. We promote the Gospel messages of love, tolerance, support, forgiveness and care and believe that all children should be happy and safe. We recognise that whilst every person in our school is unique and special, we are all made in the image and likeness of God and we are all members of God's family.

At St. John Bosco School, we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. Therefore, we aim to provide an education that gives pupils the opportunity 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 their cultures. We provide a range of opportunities for pupils to develop their self-esteem and confidence.

### 1. OBJECTIVES

The National curriculum document states that:

***Every state funded school must offer a curriculum which is broad and balanced and which:***

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society,
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life

The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that each school plans for its pupils. The national curriculum forms one part of the school curriculum. At St. John Bosco School, SMSC plays a significant part in the ability to learn and to achieve. All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to a child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our Catholic faith, values, principles and spirituality will be explored throughout the whole curriculum. The integrity and spirituality of other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised and pupils will be given access to alternative views.

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. Children should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others. Children should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. We promote the British/Gospel Values in all we do.

Our code of conduct promotes acceptable behaviour and we provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements. Our whole school mission statement "*we believe that God is present in the 'day to day' life of our school*" is also evident in all aspects of school life and beyond. All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in the teacher's planning and learning resources.

### 2. AIMS OF SMSC

- 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 child's education is set within the context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that children know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each child a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable children to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable children to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.

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- To give each child the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility
- To teach British/Gospel Values discreetly and within all subject areas

### 3. STRATEGIES

#### Spiritual Development

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

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought. We encourage deeper thinking through thought provoking questioning and feedback.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience regular quality prayer and worship and moments of stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life and God's creation

#### Moral Development

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

- Follow the examples set by Jesus as a way for us to live
- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- Recognise the challenges of the Catholic teachings and how we can learn from this
- 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 and take responsibility for their own actions

#### Social Development

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

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Learn about service in the school, Church and wider community
- Begin to understand the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged – as Catholics we believe in putting the needs of others first, as Jesus showed us

#### Cultural Development

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

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society
- Recognise Catholicism as our faith, a world-wide faith, along with a tolerance and respect of other faiths – we don't just tolerate difference, but celebrate difference as a God-given strength
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas. SMSC has particularly strong links to Religious Education, Collective Worship and Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education. Within all curricular activities, children will be encouraged to reflect on the significance of what they are learning, to recognise any challenges to their own attitudes and lifestyle and to recognise a spiritual dimension to their lives.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. We also promote the fundamental British values in all we do across the school and beyond. Through classroom discussions we will give the children opportunities to:

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

### **Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to extend these skills to:**

- Listen and talk to each other
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, accepting and loving people who are different because of physical and learning difficulties.
- Agree and disagree
- Experience good role models
- Take turns and share equipment
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively

### **Practical activities to develop SMSC will include:**

- Working together in different groupings and situations. Learning behaviours promoted in class.
- Encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times.
- Taking responsibility e.g. class monitors, door monitors, register monitors, delivering messages and looking after younger children.
- Encouraging teamwork in PE and games.
- Showing appreciation of the performances of other children regardless of ability.
- Hearing music from different composers, cultures and genres.
- Participation in a variety of different educational visits.
- Participation in live performances.
- Studying literature and art from different cultures supported by visits from writers and artists and participating in workshops.
- Opportunities to hear and see live performances by professional actors, dancers and musicians.
- Opportunities to make and evaluate food from other countries.
- Opportunities in music to learn songs from different cultures and play a range of instruments.
- Studying the contributions to society that certain famous people have made.
- Coming together as a community regularly for Key Stage and individual class Liturgies and Whole School Masses.
- Our RE scheme of work – Come and See offers opportunities for children to reflect on bigger issues in society/the world.
- Our feedback and marking system guides children on their next steps for learning and allows them time to reflect on challenging questions.
- At Christmas, children raise money to buy presents for local, disadvantaged children
- Each year we collect money for St. Cuthbert's Care.
- Children have responsibilities within their own classes to give them a sense of working as a team and having ownership.
- Throughout the year, a range of productions take place including nativities at Christmas and a year 6 leavers assembly at the end of the year.
- Various themed weeks run throughout the school year, including 'British Values' week and 'Creative Curriculum Days where children have the opportunity to come to school dressed according to their year

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group topic theme. Parents are invited to come to school on Curriculum Fun Days to work with their children in the classroom.

- Various visitors to school give children a sense of the wider community and the way adults behave, e.g. the fire service, Police, paramedics, armed forces, nurses, and our Parish Priests.
- E-SAFETY displays are in each classroom and focus throughout the computing curriculum.
- Strong links to our Church and Parish Priest.

### Links with the wider community

- Visitors are welcomed into our school.
- Links with the local church are fostered.
- Visits to places of worship of other faiths will be arranged to support the understanding of different cultures.
- The school will support the work of a variety of charities.
- The development of a strong home-school agreement is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the children.
- Children will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment.
- Liaison with local secondary schools to support the primary curriculum e.g. modern foreign languages, creative and expressive arts, PE and games, Science and Design Technology.

## 4. OUTCOMES

As a Catholic school, we are here primarily to pass on the Catholic faith to our pupils as well as providing an outstanding education in all aspects. Through our strong Catholic ethos, we teach and prepare our pupils as a 'whole child' and not just academically. Our Catholic faith teaches us that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and are all God's children and loved equally. We, therefore, celebrate this and teach everything through the examples given by Jesus. This means that we naturally teach all aspects of SMSC in RE lessons as well as within all areas of learning, inside the classroom and beyond.

## 5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

This is achieved by:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by RE co-ordinator / senior management / head teacher/ governors.
- Regular discussions at staff and governors' meetings.
- Audit of policies and units of study including the school's approach to collective worship.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_