



S.M.S.C. Policy (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural)

Review Date: July 2024

Next Review Date: July 2026

Uplands Primary School is a community within which pupils learn about their personal development. They learn from their relationships with their teachers and other staff and also with each other. They also learn from observing how adults behave with one another and with the pupils. Children learn to care for others, to be generous, kind and respectful. Good experience in personal relationships in early life will make a most important contribution to an understanding of moral and spiritual values when they are older. The SMSC in school is underpinned by the overall ethos of kindness, uniqueness and community, which is reflected in everything we do.

Spiritual Development

This area relates to the beliefs, feelings and emotions through which pupils acquire worthwhile insights into their own lives and all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development. Although education and spiritual development are not synonymous, religious education can make a significant contribution to spiritual development.

At Uplands Primary school, pupils will be provided with opportunities to develop their spiritual understanding by experiencing a curriculum which will:

- Allow them to develop a range of personal values, which may include a religious belief
- Allow them to consider the deeper meanings in familiar features of the natural world and their own experiences – develop a sense of curiosity through reflection on their own and other people's lives and beliefs
- Develop their self-esteem and self-knowledge and belief in themselves
- Encourage the development of relationships and the need to show empathy for others
- Allow them to express themselves in a variety of ways and give them time to reflect on their own experiences
- Explore the values of others, for example in stories, drama, music, art and religious education
- Allow them to understand, express, use and control feelings and emotions
- Explore and encourage respect for beliefs of other people in the school and the wider community.

Some of the ways in which Spiritual Development is nurtured at Uplands Primary school are:

- Educational visits, to expose pupils to a range of experiences, which may promote a sense of awe and wonder
- Celebration Assemblies, Certificates, awards and House Points to develop pupils' self esteem
- Pupils are encouraged to work as learning /talk partners, buddies and reading partners etc to support younger pupils
- The PSHCE programme which develops self-esteem and knowledge
- Elected Pupils committees such as School Council, Health and Safety team etc for pupils to advocate their views and those of their peers and work towards and play a key role in their school and local community
- Visiting musicians, artists and science specialists who provide interactive workshops
- Displays of pupils' work.

Moral Development

Moral development refers to pupils' knowledge, understanding, intentions, attitudes and behaviour in relation to what is right and wrong. The school has a well-established Positive Behaviour Policy and the staff actively promotes the notion of avoiding confrontational behaviours at all times.

The school motto is:

Be Kind, Be Yourself, Be Part of Our Community.

Some of the ways in which Moral Development is promoted at Uplands Primary School are:

- Clear models of good behaviour
- Skills for life-long learning taught explicitly in class
- Drama and role-play and story telling
- Group work and discussions
- Assembly themes
- Fund raising activities for others
- Incidents that occur in school which may give an opportunity for teaching about morality and behaviour.

Social Development

Social development relates to the skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society.

At Uplands Primary School pupils will be encouraged to:

- Maintain and develop relationships within the school
- Work successfully with other children and adults in the school community
- Participate co-operatively and productively in the school community
- Respond to the opportunities being offered to show initiative and to take some responsibility for their own learning.
- To become co-operative and productive members of the wider community beyond school.

Cultural Development

Cultural development refers to pupils increasing understanding and response to those elements, which give societies and groups their unique character. The school will promote the cultural traditions of our own area and the ethnic and cultural diversity of the world.

Pupils will be encouraged to:

- Appreciate, understand and respect aspects of their own and other cultural environments in terms of beliefs, values, attitudes, customs, knowledge and skills
- Recognise those similarities and differences may exist between different societies and groups
- Experience a range of cultural activities in terms of literature, music, technology, art and design, dance, drama, sport and other media
- Broaden, develop and enrich their interests and insights.

Some of the ways in which we promote cultural development at Uplands Primary School are:

- Educational visits to other contrasting schools
- Religious Education programme
- Collective worship
- Assemblies
- Thematic work/ Whole school focus weeks

- Links with other schools, both nationally and abroad
- The overall ethos of the school
- Visiting artists, musicians, and people from other cultures
- Visits to the libraries and museums.