

# **St Mark's CE Primary School**

Ramslye Road

Tunbridge Wells

TN4 8LN



## **SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY**

Headteacher: Robin Dungate

Chair of Governors: David Hill

**Created: March 2013**

**Updated: January 2017**

**Ratified: January 2017 at FGB**

**Review date: January 2019**

## **Our Mission and Christian Values**

**Our School promotes a positive ethos within a stimulating and enjoyable learning environment. It is founded on the Christian values of thankfulness, forgiveness, friendship, fellowship and trust in which personal responsibility, self-respect and respect for others are central to our children's growth. Every child is seen as a unique individual loved by God, is equally valued and is fully supported and encouraged to do their very best in everything they do.**

## **Promoting British Values at St Mark's Primary School**

St. Mark's School is committed through its historical foundation and Instrument of Government to promote Christian values. This is stated in our Instrument of Government:

*"Recognising its historic foundation, the school will preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils."*

We seek to promote British values and we will seek to do so as follows, while maintaining our commitment to the above Instrument of Government.

### **Democracy**

We have a student council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council meetings. The council has its own budget and is genuinely able to effect change within the school. Every child on the student council is voted in by their class. The School Leadership Team conduct 'pupil conversations' every other term and all children have an annual questionnaire where they are able to put forward their views about the school.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of laws and rules whether they be those that govern the the school or the country, are consistently reinforced at St Mark's.

Pupils are taught the Four Golden Rules of the school from an early age and these are displayed in all class rooms and in the school hall:

- Be a good friend to all – be kind, polite and respectful.
- Treat your property and that of others with care.
- Always move sensibly and safely around the school.
- Always try your very best.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind rules and laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service help reinforce this message.

### **Individual Liberty**

At St Mark's we help our pupils understand the interface between personal rights and responsibilities towards others. Pupils are actively encouraged to make choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and advised how to exercise these safely, for example through our eSafety and PSHE lessons.

Children will often make suggestions and demonstrate their desire to make personal choices by asking if they may run a club, raise money for a chosen charity, introduce a new idea into school life, and change something in school.

### Mutual Respect

This is a core value in our school. Our first Golden Rule is to be a good friend to all – be kind, polite and respectful.

The Christian Values of Trust, Fellowship, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Friendship are visually evident all around the school.

Positive role models are ensured throughout the day by the interaction between staff.

Mutual respect is fundamental in the ethos and it is encouraged and taught formally and informally throughout the school day, in our before and after school clubs and in all extra-curricular and play activities too.

Respect for the family, members of the local community and beyond is encouraged through our teaching and community involvement.

### Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs

St Mark's is a diverse school. We actively promote diversity through our celebrations of different faiths and cultures. Religious Education lessons aim to provide for our children a good knowledge and understanding of the Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh faiths as well as the Christian faith and PSHE lessons reinforce the message of tolerance and respect for others.

Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. The children visit places of worship that are important to different faiths.

### 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 and PHSE. 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. In later years it can enrich the individual's appreciation of life's experiences and their relationships with others.

### School Ethos

The values and attitudes promoted by the staff influence the behaviour and attitudes within the school. The quality of relationships and the atmosphere within the school reflect an appreciation of their shared values.

### What is Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development?

Spiritual Development is about:

- The non physical aspect of a person concerned with profound thoughts, relating particularly to God, Jesus,

The Bible and other religious faiths

- That which moves people
- Feelings, experiences, emotions
- A sense of purpose
- A sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- Insights into a personal existence which are of enduring worth
- Valuing a non-material dimension to life
- The relationship between belief and behaviour

- A sense of heightened perception or awareness
- A sense of being part of a greater whole
- A search for meaning and purpose
- The attribution of meaning to experience

**Moral development is about:**

- Knowing of the codes and conventions of conduct agreed by society
- Having the will to behave morally as a point of principle
- Being able to articulate attitudes and values
- Recognising the moral dimension to situations
- Developing a set of socially acceptable values and principles
- Recognising that values and attitudes change over time
- Making judgements on issues by applying moral principles, insights and reasoning
- Taking responsibility for ones' own actions
- Understanding the consequences of actions for self and others
- Behaving consistently in accordance with principles
- Recognising the greater needs which extend beyond self-interest

**Social development is about:**

- The progressive acquisition of the competencies and qualities needed to play a full part in society
- Understanding of the institutions, structures and processes of society
- Understanding of how individuals relate to each other
- Being able to adjust to a range of social contexts by appropriate and sensitive behaviour
- Being able to make a personal contribution to the well-being of groups
- The ability to exercise responsibility and initiative
- Being able to participate cooperatively and productively in the community
- Knowing how societies function and are organised
- Understanding how what is learnt in the curriculum relates to life in society
- Being able to take on the roles of team leader and team worker

**Cultural development is about:**

- Understanding of beliefs, customs, values, knowledge and skills which form the basis for identity and cohesion in society
- Recognition of and respect for the rights of others to exercise a cultural influence
- Knowledge of the nature and roots of cultural traditions
- The key features of major cultural groups within society
- Personal response and accomplishment
- The capacity to relate what is learnt to an appreciation of wider cultural aspects of society
- Developing and strengthening the cultural interests of pupils
- Exposing pupils to a breadth of stimuli in order to allow them to develop new interests
- Extending horizons beyond the immediate to the highest artistic, musical and literary achievements
- Understanding the diversity of religious, social, aesthetic, ethnic and political traditions and practices
- Being able to evaluate the quality and worth of cultural achievements

**Equal opportunities**

Refer to St. Mark's CE Primary School Equal Opportunities policy. To ensure that the things described in these statements can happen, there are three aspects or levels of the school which need to be considered:

- The ethos of the school, which creates the climate within which Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development can flourish. This is described well in the school aims
- The pastoral support for students which should reflect these aims, and creates a deliberate structure through which the care and concern for pupils can be given
- The curriculum, which sets out to ensure that there is planning to introduce and explore the elements of SMSC where this is appropriate

The policy of the school is that all subjects can and should contribute to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of pupils

The curriculum is the framework on which a school is built and so it is through the curriculum that schools can have a major influence.

Teachers must:

- be aware of these responsibilities
- know how respective curriculum areas might be used
- plan accordingly
- be alert to the many everyday, unplanned and incidental opportunities that can provide important starting points

### **Opportunity for including SMSC within the curriculum.**

#### **English**

- The studying of different texts – classical, contemporary, serious, funny can provide challenging starting points and give an appreciation of the beauty of great language and literature.
- Exposure to great literature and poetry and its place within a culture – appreciating moral or social aspects e.g. Dickens social commentary or knowing that we can learn a lot about other cultures from its writing.
- Drama and stories which create opportunities for moral judgements.
- Shared activities – shared reading, group drama, corporate writing that lead to an understanding of an appreciation of the importance of the group and other people's point of view.
- Knowledge of our language and its influence on our culture and the importance and value of other languages and cultures.
- Awareness of traditional tales and their cultural background.

#### **Mathematics**

- Group work on a shared topic or investigation promoting an appreciation of the input of all members of the group.
- An appreciation of the inherent pattern and beauty of mathematics.
- Studying the patterns of Islam and their cultural/religious connections.
- The promotion of positive attitudes towards mathematics through appropriate groupings.
- An understanding that mathematics has an historical and cultural base – Greek, Arabic, Egyptian. An understanding of the role and importance of these cultures.

#### **Computers**

- Working together to create a graphic design or study.
- Researching religious artefacts on the website.
- Setting up e-mail with another school from a different country.
- Following the Internet Access Policy.

#### **Science**

- The development of an understanding of our place in the great scheme of things by studying space or life processes.
- An appreciation of moral questions as scientific knowledge increases e.g. the use of animals for research.
- An awareness of the cultural background of science e.g. the Wise Men from the East who charted the birth of Jesus or the ancient Greek scientists.

### **Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural Development**

- Consideration of moral, environmental and citizenship issues when considering our role in caring for the environment e.g. efficient ways of feeding the world, intensive farming, the pollution of the planet.
- Health, drugs, smoking – an understanding of the social and scientific issues involved and an awareness of everyone's point of view.

### **Design Technology**

- The aesthetic aspect of good design is an important area, as is the question 'How will this affect the environment?'
- Appreciating design in nature.
- The study of technologies from different cultures – historical and geographical – and how these have evolved provides important lessons in cultural awareness.
- Group working – sharing of equipment and designing together.
- Promoting equality of opportunity and providing an awareness of areas that have gender issues e.g. activities that are historically female such as textile studies, encouraging girls to use equipment that has been traditionally male dominated.

### **History**

- The study of artefacts, buildings, churches etc. gives children a sense of their place in the historical scheme of things. It also helps to develop an awareness of beauty and aesthetics.
- Moral issues can be considered. For example, was it right that war was fought or that children were forced to work in factories and mines in Victorian Britain, or that Anne Frank was forced into hiding?
- Studying the cultures of other times – Egyptians, Romans etc. builds an awareness of the value and importance of other societies and cultures and the relative value and importance of our own. It also stresses the interdependence of cultures.

### **Geography**

- The study of different localities helps children to understand the background, way of life and values etc. of different people and cultures.
- Tolerance of other people's differences, overcoming stereotyping, racism and prejudice can all be highlighted through the study of different peoples and their way of life.
- Local studies will encourage an awareness of the child's place, family, home, dependency upon other individuals, people and cultures and needs in the great scheme of things.
- Environmental issues and concerns can be discussed – what are the effects and the issues involved in urbanising an area.

### **Art**

- Studying great works of art can give an insight into the culture of other people and provide a strong link with the past.
- Art can provide a valuable tool to study the past and make social or moral comment on it for example, what do the people in works by Lowry tell us about the social conditions of the time?

- Multicultural art, the art of different religions, the art of ancient societies all reinforce the value of societies other than our own and help us to appreciate their value and the value of our own.
- The appreciation of great works of art and the appreciation of our own attempts helps to build up an awareness of aesthetics and gives an uplifting experience.

### **Music**

- Listening to music, performing, joining in with it gives pleasure, lifts spirits and has an emotional dimension that children need to experience. Music experienced in our services and assemblies helps the pupils in their spirituality.
- Listening to and appreciating the great music of our culture and its folk music builds an important awareness of our culture and that of other lands. Music of other cultures is important for the same reasons.
- Music of the fields, sea shanties, slave songs etc. can be used to build an awareness of the importance of music and its place in social history and the accompanying moral and social questions that arise out of it.
- Group music making is an important social activity – working together and experiencing the same feelings together.

### **Physical Education**

- Caring for our bodies and respecting the health of others.
- Obeying the rules of the game, being a 'good sport', learning to be a good winner and a good loser, learning to take part and doing one's best is important.
- Appreciating the aesthetic beauty of the movements of gymnastics or dance.
- Building team spirit, being a good team member, valuing the contributions of others to the team.
- Learning that sport is an important element of many cultures – Ancient Greeks, Romans, the history of great sporting events such as the Olympics or the Ashes.
- Appreciating that different individuals or groups have different skills because of their background or habitat e.g. Austrian skiers, Dutch speed skaters.

### **Personal, Social, Health Education/Citizenship**

- Listening to others.
- Holding debates and discussions leading to written work.
- Drama and role play linked to choices.
- Drawing pictures of feelings and emotions.

### **Religious Education**

- The exploration of moral and spiritual questions by discussing, for example, the great Bible stories or the stories from other religions.
- Appreciating and valuing other faiths and beliefs of both groups and individuals.
- Learning about being a member of a pluralist society and respecting and tolerating others and their belief and needs.
- Knowing about the historical, religious aspects of our own culture and that of others.
- Harvest, Christmas, Easter, May Day, Jewish New Year, Divali etc. - appreciating and respecting the values of the cultures concerned.

### **Collective Worship**

Daily worship is vital in the promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues in school. Many of these issues highlighted in the curriculum aspects are equally valid when considering spiritual, social, moral and cultural aspects of collective worship. St. Mark's CE Primary School holds a collective gathering every day within the Anglican tradition: four

days involving acts of specific collective worship and one day when we celebrate the achievements of our school and the individuals within it.

Visitors are invited to attend and lead our assemblies as appropriate. These may sometimes take place in St Mark's Church and include parents and relatives of pupils at our school.

Half-termly themes are agreed and this theme is used in planning by the individuals responsible for the particular assembly.