


St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

	Reviewed	September 2022
	Next Review	September 2025

Introduction

At St Lawrence School the children are encouraged to develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and to begin to make personal decisions and choices which reflect this development. Opportunities for the children to develop in these areas are provided throughout the curriculum, in reflective classroom and outdoor spaces, during recreation periods, in collective worship, at lunch time and during extra-curricular activities.

Aims and purpose

St Lawrence is a Church of England school whose vision is founded on Christian teaching and values and in particular recognises the uniqueness and worth of each individual member of the school, both children and adults alike, all of whom are loved by God. With this in mind the aim of the school is to encourage and develop a love of learning in our pupils that will stay with them throughout their lives. Christian vision, values and ethos are at the heart of the school. Our aim is to provide children with a high quality education where purposeful learning, stimulus and a full partnership between teachers and parents encourage each child to reach his/her maximum potential. Within a safe, friendly and caring environment, pupils are nevertheless encouraged to become risk takers as they develop their academic and physical, spiritual and emotional capabilities. Pupils are given opportunities to reflect and evaluate both their work and attitudes to learning and to ask questions about puzzling or mysterious aspects of life. The school seeks to help children recognise their place in the community, to be life-long learners, ready to take their place as active citizens and to accept their responsibilities as they progress through childhood into adulthood.

To ensure that children are reaching their true potential, we provide a programme of learning that is rich in opportunities to explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments.

- **Spiritual development** relates to that aspect of inner life through which our children acquire insights into their personal existence that are of enduring worth. Spiritual is not synonymous with religious; all areas of the curriculum may contribute to pupils' spiritual development. It is about the development of a sense of identity, self-worth, personal insight, meaning and purpose as well as provision of space and time each day to consider aspects of the divine or spiritual mystery, particularly in relation to Jesus Christ.

- **Moral development** is about building a framework of moral values for our children, which regulates their personal behaviour. It is the development of our understanding of society's shared and agreed values; including an understanding that there are contentious issues where there is disagreement, and that society's values change. St Lawrence focuses on five core values which govern behavioural attitudes and understanding of right and wrong.
- **Social development** is about helping our young people to work effectively with each other and to participate successfully in the community as a whole. It is about the development of the skills and personal qualities necessary for living and working together; and functioning effectively in a multi-racial, multi-cultural society.
- **Cultural development** is about our children understanding their own culture, and other cultures in the UK as a whole. It is about understanding cultures represented in Europe and elsewhere in the world; about understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures, being able to operate in the emerging world culture of shared experiences provided by television, travel and the internet, and being confident in both asking questions about the sensitivity to listen to beliefs and practices of other cultures.

Implementation of the SMSC policy aims

To encourage spiritual development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- explore the claims of the Christian faith and begin to compare with other faiths
- develop a sense of wonder, awe, mystery and joy
- listen, reflect and puzzle both inside and outside in the grounds
- examine their own feelings, likes and dislikes, and compare these with others
- develop personal beliefs and values and respect those of others
- develop insight into questions of life, death and change
- respond to situations of suffering and hardship
- express doubts, fears and pose questions
- express feelings, responses and insights through creative media

To encourage moral development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- develop an understanding of our nine core values: aspiration, courage, perseverance, faith, self-esteem, community, generosity, forgiveness and compassion
- recognise the unique value of each individual
- reflect on the consequences of their actions
- develop a sense of right and wrong in a supportive environment
- develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own actions
- be aware of the needs of others and develop empathy
- discuss the need for rules and sanctions and adherence to the school code
- understand the role of forgiveness and generosity towards others
- form judgments about appropriate courses of action
- show respect for the environment
- gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes

To encourage social development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own actions
- be aware of the needs of others and develop empathy
- discuss the need for rules and sanctions and adherence to the school code
- understand the role of forgiveness and generosity towards others
- form judgments about appropriate courses of action
- work collaboratively in a group or team
- celebrate personal achievement and the success of others
- assume responsibility and develop early leadership skills
- make an active contribution in the democratic process
- develop an understanding of individual and group identity

To encourage cultural development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- recognise the values and richness of cultural diversity in Britain and how these influence individuals and society
- explore a range of multi-cultural themes through literature, art, music, dance, religious education and worship
- participate in visits to places of cultural interest e.g. art galleries, museums, theatre productions and places of worship
- to engage with artists, musicians, dancers, story-tellers and religious representatives who visit the school
- perform to an audience or speak publicly in a drama production, religious festival or school forum
- participate in school and community events such as carnival, fund-raising events and charitable activities

Links with the wider community

St. Lawrence School has close links with the community of Molesey by its central location, close ties to the churches and its tradition of participation in the life of the local and wider community. These links foster an attitude of care and concern in pupils, who commit themselves readily to such activities as fund raising for the school's nominated charities (local and world-wide), supporting the PTA fundraising events, distribution of harvest gifts to those in need, participation in Magical Molesey (Christmas) and Music at the Marker (Summer) and carol singing at the local home for the elderly. The school choir participates in Elmbridge choral events, the sportsmen and women in District Sports in Elmbridge and the school plays an important part in the life and celebrations of the church.

Resources

The school provides a range of resources expressing the diversity of cultures represented in our school and the community. Literacy texts, art stimuli, music, religious artefacts and the use of foreign languages reflect the school's aims of giving access to cultural diversity in the teaching of the curriculum. Residential trips, special focus days/weeks, educational visits and specialist visitors to the school offer particular opportunities for the SMSC aims to be pursued.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The provision of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education at St Lawrence is monitored by the Head teacher, in liaison with the Worship Lead, Religious Education and the PSHE subject leaders. Comments on the annual report to parents reflect pupils' attainment in these areas and indicate areas for development. Governors also play a part in monitoring the provision of SMSC at the school and regularly conduct lesson visits, pupil voice and hold discussions with staff. Governors also regularly attend or lead Collective Worship, Church services, Youth Alpha and other significant events in the life of the school in order to be able to evaluate the provision accurately. Strengths will be celebrated and areas for development will be raised and discussed where appropriate.