



'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!'

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL (SMSC) Policy

Lead person responsible:

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Rationale:

As of November 2014, schools must promote British Values. The DfE advises that schools do this through SMSC. Every school must provide a broad and balanced curriculum which: This requirement continues to be a key expectation under the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF 2019, updated 2023), which highlights the importance of pupils' personal development, character, and readiness for life in modern Britain.

- 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 biggest challenge of 'promoting British Values' and of young people 'accepting', 'respecting' and 'tolerating' in a school like Roe Green is agreeing on and respecting these common values. We cannot assume shared values. Rather, we must be aware that these values can be different from those at home. They must be arrived at through mutual exploration and understanding. We also recognise the importance of actively addressing issues such as online influence, extremism, prejudice, and misinformation, in line with our Prevent Duty responsibilities.

As a school we are acutely aware of this challenge and as stated in our British Values statement, the acknowledgement that all people are to be valued regardless of beliefs, background or ethnic origin is embedded in the core values that underpin our school.'

At Roe Green we recognise that the development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant role in their ability to learn and achieve. We aim to provide our pupils with opportunities to explore and develop:

- Their own beliefs and values as well as a respect for the beliefs and values of others
- Spiritual awareness
- A positive and caring attitude towards all other people
- An understanding of British social and cultural traditions and a level of respect for their own and the traditions and culture of other children in our school
- An appreciation of the diversity and richness of different cultures in the school and the wider community

SMSC is a dimension embedded in the whole school experience. The SMSC policy provides the school the opportunity to meet our Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Guidelines:

All curriculum areas can contribute to make a child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum. Pupils 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.

Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements. This includes digital citizenship and online behaviour, where respect, responsibility, and safety are explicitly taught.

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 teacher's planning and purchasing decisions. Staff are encouraged to ensure that teaching materials are diverse, inclusive, and free from stereotypes, reflecting our commitment to equality and representation.

Our aims within 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 through the curriculum
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation and respect for the cultures that make up our society
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility
- To equip pupils with the resilience, empathy and critical thinking skills needed to navigate modern challenges, including those presented by social media and the digital world.

Spiritual Development

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

- Build their self-esteem through their learning and school experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- Express their feelings among peers and adults
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- Openly discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Learn how to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Explore themes of awe and wonder in the natural world, science, the arts, and technology, nurturing curiosity and creativity.

Moral Development

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

- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- Listen, respect and respond accordingly to the views of others
- Gain the confidence to become resilient and cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others learn to distinguish between right and wrong including in online spaces, recognising the impact of cyberbullying, misinformation and harmful behaviours.
- Show respect for the environment
- Begin to make informed and independent judgements

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 and begin to participate in service to the school and the wider community
- Develop teamwork, leadership and responsibility through opportunities such as pupil voice, school council, peer mentoring and charity/community projects.

Cultural Development

Being such a diverse and multicultural school we have embedded opportunities for pupils to:

- Recognise and respect the value of cultural diversity in Britain. Understand how this has influenced individuals and society
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European and global dimensions including awareness of global sustainability issues, climate change, and how pupils can contribute positively as global citizens.

Teaching and Organisation

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.

Teachers will use creative strategies and challenging questions to engage pupils in their learning and relate it to their own experiences.

All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Opportunities for SMSC are also embedded through our PSHE/RSE curriculum, assemblies, and safeguarding teaching (including online safety and Prevent).

Class discussions and Circle time 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, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider others needs and behaviour
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging

Across the curriculum there are opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are physically or mentally different.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Personal development is also enriched through a wide range of extra-curricular activities (lunchtime and after school sports clubs, Art, Drama, Cooking club) which provide opportunities for SMSC and for inspiring pupils to broaden their experience and horizons.

We ensure these opportunities are inclusive and accessible to all pupils, promoting equity and participation across different groups.

Links with the wider community

- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents, teachers and the wider community to work in an effective partnership to make sure that we give our pupils the best possible environment in which to grow, flourish and learn.
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and community and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.
- Visitors from a wide range of backgrounds and experience are welcomed to the school
- We foster partnerships with local organisations, faith groups, charities and businesses to broaden pupils' horizons and give them meaningful experiences beyond the classroom.