

**Driffield Church of England
(VC) Infant School**



'Learn to let your light shine'

Matthew 5: 14-16

**Spiritual, Moral, Social
and Cultural (SMSC)
Policy**

January 2024

Statement of intent and ethos

Drifffield CE Infant School welcomes all God's children and their families and is a place where children of all faiths and none flourish and are inspired by the Christian character and values of our school and learn to love God, one another and themselves (Mark 12:30-31) in order that they can 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

It is this ethos underpinned by the words from Matthew 5: 14-16 'Learn to let your light shine' that underpins our approach to spiritual moral, social and cultural development for the whole school community.

At Drifffield CE (VC) Infant 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 and therefore flourish as young citizens. We therefore aim to deliver an education that provides pupils with opportunities 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 different cultures.

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

Christian spirituality and Christian values and principles will be explored in all curriculum areas, especially in RE/Collective Worship, but the integrity and spirituality of pupils from 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 unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families, as outlined in the Staff Handbook.

The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school.

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 linked to our values for the good of everyone.

All curriculum areas 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.

High standards in the area of SMSC development will be sought and maintained by articulating the school's vision and values as expressed in the school's prospectus and by establishing Christian principles and values to foster a love and respect for others.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Spirituality and Spiritual Development Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Relationships and Health Education (RHE) Policy

General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our distinctly Christian vision and our supporting 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 pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- 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 develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

Spiritual Development

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

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child in the image of God.
- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.

- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of our Church school.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian Values and the Bible stories that underpin them.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

Moral Development

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

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Recognise the challenge of Jesus' teaching.
- 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 and begin to understand how both our school vision, rooted in the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount and our Christian Values inform a particular perspective on moral choices.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.
- Understand how our moral choices can affect the lives of others.
- Understand the centrality of forgiveness.
- Be able to work together to agree codes of behaviour that are acceptable for our school community.
- To begin to learn to disagree peacefully.

Social Development

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

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Begin to develop an understanding of the place of the Church school within the wider Christian community.
- Learn about service in the school and wider community.
- Begin to understand the Christian imperative for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged.
- Build relationships built upon Christian Values and be able to access pastoral support from our school staff.
- Feel a sense of genuine pride in our school.

Cultural Development

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

- Gain a knowledge and understanding of the values from their own culture, heritage, traditions and an appreciation of how they have evolved and developed over time.
- Develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the cultures of those with whom they interact day by day, as well as other cultures represented in the UK.
- Develop knowledge of the local Christian heritage, particularly through “Experience Church”, visits to local churches and to explore their relationship to it.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the cultural diversity of Christianity through links overseas, RE, Collective Worship and events in school.
- Understand the relationship between religious belief and culture through a creative, challenging and interactive RE curriculum.
- Explore what it means to be a child made in the image of a Creator God.
- Understand what it means to be part of a community characterised by openness, hospitality and an eagerness to learn from one another.
- Begin to understand the fundamental principles of British Values and how these link to our vision and values and a Church school.
- Learn through news stories by exposing them to a range of current issues including political, religious, cultural, environmental, social, moral and spiritual

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.

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

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.
- Show empathy.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally – e.g. empathy, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are diverse for any reason.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Links with the wider community

- Visitors are welcomed into school.
- Links with the church are fostered through links with the local church and the Diocesan Board of Education. The vicar leads a weekly assembly in school and the children regularly visit the church for services and celebratory events.
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil. Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility and respect towards it.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning, by the Head Teacher and RE Subject Leader and external inspections e.g., OFSTED and SIAMS
- Regular discussion at staff and Governors meetings.
- Audit of policies and Curriculum Plans.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Audit of Collective Worship policy and practice.
- Looking for evidence in pupil's work.

The policy is reviewed every three years, in consultation with the whole school community including staff, pupils, parents, carers and governors.

To be reviewed January 2027