

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy

"Whenever two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them." Matthew 18:20-21

School Vision

At Crookham Infant School we aim to make learning irresistible so that as Team Crookham we all develop the life-long learning habits of resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness and reciprocity through exploring together the loving invitation of Jesus to 'live life in all its fullness' John 10:10. Our vision stems from our Christian foundation and is firmly rooted in our values: Love God, Love Others, Love Learning.

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims and school provision for children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, in order to promote our pupils' living 'life in all its fullness' as stated in our school Vision.

Aims of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

The importance of educating the 'whole child', being mindful of children's well-being as well as and as much as their academic achievement, is a theme common to national secular and church strategy, for example: Every Child Matters, British Values Education, Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good. We agree with the common aim and importance of promoting the skills of lifelong learning in our pupils in a value-led environment that enables them to flourish. The following sections indicate where spiritual, moral, social and cultural development may be seen in our daily school life. There is some overlap between the sections and links are made to the themes in the Church of England Vision document (and to British Values) where appropriate.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development refers to children's ability to reflect on their own beliefs, religious or otherwise, that inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values. (Ofsted Handbook 2019)

As a Church School we promote spiritual development strongly within our ethos as we implement our vision and values. You might see this in the following ways:

- Exploring the value 'Love God' where we see ourselves as unique individuals, who are valued, and begin to extend this understanding to the way we want to develop as human beings, and our relationship with God and with other people.
- Exploring God as creator and enjoying the wonders of creation.
- Exploring the parable of the Prodigal Son as a story of unconditional love and human worth.
- Building strong self-esteem through a sense of belonging to Team Crookham where everyone plays a part.
- Encouraging thinking on big and challenging questions in RE, Relationships Education, Big Questions and cross curricular thinking skills.
- Promoting thinking skills and reflection (Reflective Owl) as a learning habit.
- Promoting enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, e.g. Ourselves, YR, Superheroes Y1, Rainforest Y2.

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- Using imagination and creativity in learning, promoting curiosity, e.g. Space Y2.
- Reflecting on our shared experiences, e.g. in Celebration Assembly.
- Prayer in different forms, including silence, talk, art, song, dance.
- Worship in a variety of forms.
- Shared worship with the parish of Christ Church in our services and events.
- Exploring human values and self-worth in Collective Worship and our customs and traditions.
- Learning respect for other cultures and beliefs through visits, school and charity links.
- Celebration of festivals and seasons.
- Reading and reflecting on the Bible as an inspirational text.
- Our RE and Relationships Education Curricula.
- Encouraging awe and wonder in engagement with the natural world through Forest School and other learning.

Links to themes in the Church of England Vision - Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills, and for Hope and Aspiration.

Moral Development

Moral Development is the children's ability to recognise right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views. We promote this particularly through:

- Promoting the value Love Others - teaching how to build relationships with others, recognising what is shared and what is different and giving both value and respect.
- Looking at the role model of Jesus in his relationships with his disciples.
- Exploring the parable of the Good Samaritan.
- Promoting the learning habits of resourcefulness (Sensible Squirrel) and reciprocity/collaboration (Team Ant).
- Exploring British Values in our PSHE sessions and in assemblies (rule of law, democracy, respect and tolerance, freedom of speech).
- Our behaviour policy and approach - Kind Words, Kind Hands, Kind Feet.
- Encouraging reflection and reconciliation in 'thinking time' when actions and choices warrant it.
- Understanding the consequences of words and actions on an individual level.
- Encouraging truthfulness, honesty and integrity.
- Applying the understanding of right and wrong to their lives.
- Respecting the rights and property of others, looking after our school, e.g. Eco, Environment Team.
- Respecting others opinions and customs even when they are different from our own, e.g. Would you rather thinking skills sessions.
- Helping others, e.g. buddies, Class Council Reps.
- Investigating and offering reasoned views about moral issues, and being able to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues e.g. through P4C.
- Solving differences of opinion amiably, e.g. Team Ant collaboration.

Links to themes in the Church of England Vision - Educating for Dignity and Respect.

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Social Development

Social Development is the children's ability to use a range of social skills; participate in the local community; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the '[British values](#)' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

Within our school you will see social development in the following:

- Our promoting of our values of Love Others and Love Learning.
- Teaching our pupils the learning habits of resourcefulness, reciprocity and resilience.
- Encouraging all pupils to be responsible for themselves and their learning as members of Team Crookham.
- Developing young citizens through our Year 2 roles of responsibility, our Buddies system and School Council.
- Giving pupils the chance to use a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different backgrounds
- Encouraging willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- Demonstrating acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; the pupils develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.
- Engaging with visitors from the local community from a range of backgrounds.
- Our links with a school in Sri Lanka, through the charity Ocean Stars which give children a more global perspective.
- Our support of Hart Foodbank which prompts challenging questions.
- Developing team building in our learning challenges and in Forest School.
- Through our Relationships Education curriculum developing self-confidence, co-operation, sensitivity to others, reliability, initiative and understanding by providing an environment and learning opportunities where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school as part of Team Crookham and in the wider society.

Links to themes in the Church of England Vision - Educating for Dignity and Respect and for Community and Living Well together.

Cultural Development

Cultural Development is the ability of our pupils to appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

We value cultural diversity in our school, community and wider world through:

- Appreciating our own customs and traditions, e.g. Rainbows and Beavers marking world thinking day.
- Helping pupils in understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others.
- Promoting understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain.

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- Teaching knowledge of democracy by voting to choose members for the School Council and respecting the authority of those they have chosen.
- Encouraging willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities.
- Encouraging interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.
- Promoting understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage.
- Encouraging pupil willingness to participate in, and respond to for example, artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural opportunities.
- Encouraging celebration of other customs and traditions in our curriculum enrichment and events.
- Linking with a school in Sri Lanka to promote understanding of other cultures and traditions.
- Celebrating the diversity of our school, community and world in Collective Worships and events.

Links to themes in the Church of England Vision - Educating for Community and Living Well together.

We ensure that the SMSC development of our pupils is promoted across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school by:

- A range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC.
- Ensuring pupils have a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- Enabling pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Enabling 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.
- Giving each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- Working hard to promote and maintain the positive climate of Team Crookham in school where all are valued, respected and invited to make a positive contribution to their learning and where expectations are high.
- Supporting teachers in planning for and responding to opportunities to develop SMSC and promoting strong subject knowledge through the leadership of the PSHE Manager.
- Recognising the importance of Collective Worship in supporting and encouraging SMSC development and planning a high quality programme
- Reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school improvement.

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References

Every Child Matters 8th September 2003

Church of England Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good (2016)

Promoting British Values as part of SMSC in schools 27th November 2014