



St Gabriel's CE Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Policy

Our Vision Statement:

Our aim is to nurture children with the confidence and self-belief to achieve their best;
to have the courage to think for themselves;
to be resilient in their learning and ambitious in their hopes and dreams;
to live in harmony, respecting others;
to search and question throughout life's journey;
to find personal faith;
and to learn about the Gospel of hope and love found in Jesus Christ.

Seeking to nurture:

Sel**F**-belief Cour**A**ge Res**I**llience Ambi**T**ion **H**armony

“Stand firm... be courageous” 1 Corinthians 16:13

Policy Revised: Summer 2025

To be reviewed by: Summer 2028

The development of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural values is intrinsic within our school's Vision Statement and the attributes we seek to nurture. Together, these set the whole ethos for our school.

These combined values are integral to all areas of teaching and learning and infiltrate the whole curriculum. They are the 'golden thread' throughout all we do.

It is especially important in a church school that there is a strong sense of caring for the whole school family and community and that each person feels valued as an individual. We look for a positive, caring attitude towards others, high standards of behaviour and an understanding of social and cultural traditions. We actively seek to promote British values in all that we do.

Cultural Capital for the Future

Our aim is to educate and develop the whole child. We are committed to providing the best opportunities for them educationally and to develop spiritual and moral qualities within themselves that will stay with them forever. Our SMSC Policy supports this desire to give children the cultural capital that will develop them as citizens of the future.

Church School Ethos

As a Church of England school, we provide an education that embodies a Christian ethos and provides our children with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs and raise their spiritual awareness. However, we recognise that spiritual development is not limited to religious beliefs and knowledge, but embraces a much wider code of beliefs and attitudes.

At St Gabriel's, we recognise that the personal development of children spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn and to achieve. We aim to create and enrich a positive learning environment for everyone within school and within the wider community. We value every individual as wonderfully made, created in the image of God. Within our school community all adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing love and respect for our school community.

Summary of Intent

- To ensure the 'golden thread' of SMSC and British Values, alongside our Vision and values, runs through the entire curriculum and the general life of the school.
- To give each child a range of spiritual and cultural opportunities to reflect upon and to discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experiences.
- To give each child the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility from a Christian perspective.
- To provide a place where children can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to 'start again' is fundamental to the ethos of our school.
- To provide all children with the essential knowledge and skills to be educated and responsible citizens
- To introduce children to the best that has been thought and said, and help them to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement

Spiritual Development

Whilst fostering respect, understanding and tolerance of other faiths, we affirm the unique role of the Christian faith in the life of the school. As a church school we share the wider Diocesan Vision for children to:

- Know how to pray
- Know the Christian belief that they are loved by God
- Understand the story of salvation revealed in the Bible and fulfilled in Jesus Christ

- Have explored, and know how to explore, the Christian faith
- Be guided by a spiritual compass, based on gospel values and the person of Jesus
- Love their neighbour and seek to serve them, to bring justice and to embrace both sacrifice and service
- Understand the life-long transformational effect of God for individuals, communities and nations

We recognise that spiritual development is a process of growth. In addition to developing the spirituality of our children through our Christian ethos, we also help them to become aware of the human search for meaning and purpose of life.

We will provide opportunities for them to reflect, discuss, experience and celebrate:

- The knowledge of God through acts of collective worship
- The joy of being alive
- The beauty of the natural world
- The mystery and wonder of existence
- The world of imagination and creativity
- The value of the non-material dimension of life

and to recognise:

- The need to understand and value oneself and one's beliefs, culture, views and feelings
- The need to acknowledge the beliefs, cultures, views, feelings and achievements of others

Moral Development

Moral development is concerned with acquiring knowledge and understanding of what is right and wrong. The system of codes and behaviour established in our school is an important early introduction to issues of fairness for all and the consequences of operating outside the accepted rule system. Children are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of consequences or sanctions. Moral development, based on Christian teaching, enables children to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour. We help to make children aware of the affect of their actions on others. Children are also offered opportunities to consider moral and ethical issues and to appreciate and understand the views of others on these issues.

As a school we will promote opportunities that will enable children to:

- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law in England
- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding the consequences of their actions
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self-respect and self confidence
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

Social Development

Social development refers to the development of abilities and qualities that children need to acquire if they are to play a full and active part in society. As a school we will promote opportunities within a safe and caring environment that will enable children to:

- Interact positively with others and experience being part of a whole caring community with an understanding of and engagement with fundamental values of democracy, law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance
- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Understand that as individuals we depend on family, school and society

- Take responsibility for their own behaviour
- Develop an understanding of the desirability for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged throughout the World
- Learn and practise respect for others

Cultural Development

Cultural development will explore the diversity and richness of local, national and world cultures and beliefs, including our Christian faith and heritage, and how these influence individuals and society.

As a school we will promote opportunities that will enable children to:

- Have the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life
- Develop an appreciation of the diversity of human creativity and achievement
- Recognise the place of Christianity among many faiths across the world
- Develop a sense of belonging to pupils own culture and being proud of their cultural background
- Challenge opinions or behaviours that are contrary to British Values
- Share different cultural experiences
- Respect different cultural traditions
- Understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition
- Recognise and value the richness of cultural diversity in our local, national and world communities
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of a range of cultures and faiths

Curriculum

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to children's SMSC development and opportunities are identified wherever possible on planning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is an on-going process. Provision for SMSC is evidenced in:

- Curriculum planning
- Classroom observations
- Children's behaviour, thoughts and opinions
- Acts of worship
- The role of Worship Beacons and the School Council
- Charity involvement