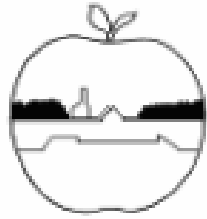


New Ash Green Primary School



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

Policy

Introduction and Aims

We recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve.

We therefore aim to provide 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 other cultures.

Our Vision:

TBC

Planning:

In planning lessons, teachers are aware of the need to plan opportunities to develop a wide variety of spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs. A vast majority will be delivered through cross curricular activities as well as specific PSHE, RE and Circle Time activities. These are also referenced to in specific whole school and/or key stage assemblies.

Spiritual Development:

Spiritual development is the development of the elements of pupils that animates and sustains us. It is about the development of a sense of identity, belonging, self-worth, meaning and purpose and the ability to reflect.

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

- Express personal beliefs and compare views with others, share feelings and opinions through group discussions and story situations.
- Develop their own beliefs which may or may not be religious beliefs.
- Discuss their beliefs and show what they believe by their behaviour, both in formal and informal settings.
- Reflect upon deep, ultimate questions and relate them to their own experiences and look for meaning in those experiences.
- Reflect on the situations of others through role play, stories, project work and informal settings.
- Celebrate the diversity of faiths and philosophies that people choose to hold.

Moral Development:

Moral development is about the creation of a framework of values which regulates pupils' behaviour, and about pupils' understanding of society's shared and agreed values. It is about acquiring an understanding of right and wrong, and being able to apply this understanding within and outside school. Moral development also includes pupils' appreciation that different people hold different views on subjects, and being able to articulate their own opinions.

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

- Develop a sense of right and wrong
- Respect themselves and others
- Respect the truth.
- An understanding that their actions can affect others, as well as themselves.
- Discuss and reflect upon moral issues and make decisions guided by their own values and principles.
- Understand that their values and attitudes may change over time.
- Behave consistently in a way which demonstrates their acceptance of the need for a moral code in school.
- Develop an understanding of democracy and the democratic process.
- Know the difference between civil and criminal law in England.
- Appreciate that living under the rule of law is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- Understand and respect that other people have the right to hold a different viewpoint to their own.
- Begin to build an understanding of the British democratic system and how it operates.

Social Development:

Social development is the development of pupils' ability to work effectively with each other in a school context, and participate constructively in the wider community. It concerns the acquisition of the skills and qualities necessary to live and work together. It includes developing an understanding of society's institutions and pupils' roles as citizens of the UK and the world.

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

- Take responsibility in the role of peer mediators, play time monitors, running clubs and being members of the school council and eco committee.
- Develop positive relationships. The use of the restorative approach provides staff and children with a clear structure to support children in taking responsibility for their actions.
- Take responsibility and display leadership through daily routines where they deliver messages, undertake classroom and playground jobs.
- Co-operate with others through sharing of resources, group work, taking part in clubs, playing games and physical activity.
- Meet with members of the local community, e.g. Community Police Officers (PCSOs), artists, guests and other professionals.

Cultural Development:

This relates to children's increased understanding and awareness of their own and others cultures in their town, region and in the country as a whole. It relates to an awareness of the beliefs, customs and knowledge which collectively forms a basis of 'cultural' identity between groups and societies.

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

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in our local environment of New Ash Green.
- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of their own personal social and cultural environment, as well as others in our school.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.
- Share experiences through encouraging visits and visitors.
- Show an interest in cultural diversity within Britain as well as other cultures around the world.
- Learn about festivals around the world and how they are celebrated, using a range of religious artefacts and resources.
- Learn about different attitudes to life from around the world and how these impact the actions that people take.
- Learning about history and current politics related to this and other countries.
- Take part in assemblies in which children are exposed to music, poetry, song, dance from a range of eras and cultures.