

St Bede's School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 St Bede's School is an independent establishment with a strong Christian ethos.
- 1.2 We seek to provide a learning environment which:
- allows children to feel valued, acknowledging that every one of our pupils is totally unique, a fact which we celebrate
 - fosters strong friendships so that all the children develop a confidence and independence that is recognized by everyone who meets them
 - encourages the children to reach their full potential across the curriculum, taking pride in their work and achievements
 - meets the individual needs of every single child - nurturing their individual talents
 - promotes a strong Christian ethos through our philosophy and the daily life of the school
 - fosters a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect whilst encouraging individuals to feel that their unique contribution is valued
 - promotes an understanding and awareness of other world faiths
 - provides a supportive environment where children can develop self-confidence, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility
 - seeks to promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils
 - creates a positive interaction between school, home and the wider community
 - actively promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
 - develops pupils who are self-assured, confident, happy, positive young people

2 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1 St Bede's School seeks to promote spiritual development within a context of Christian beliefs, values and worship.
- 2.2 It involves the growth of the children's sense of self, their unique potential and their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses.
- 2.3 It aims to encourage their curiosity about themselves and think about life's fundamental questions.
- 2.4 We have forums for them to discuss and reflect on key questions of meaning and truth, reflect on beliefs about God and deities, explore where they came from originally and to look at core concepts and experiences that are at the heart of religious and non-religious world views.
- 2.5 Their spiritual development is nurtured through participation in acts of daily collective worship.
- 2.6 The whole ethos develops a climate where all pupils can grow and flourish, respect others and be respected.

- 2.7 Spiritual development is provided through, for example:
- prayer times, Mass, school and class liturgies, assemblies
 - RS / RS English / RS Catechism / Citizenship lessons
 - visiting our own Chapel and other places of worship
 - studying people who adopt the religious lifestyle
 - times of reflection and where achievement is celebrated

3 MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The school aims to develop in pupils a moral stance which is based on Christian ideals of love, justice, peace, truth, compassion, redemption and forgiveness.
- 3.2 We seek to develop in pupils a clear understanding of all these values and enable them to put them into practice in their life in and out of school.
- 3.3 We will seek to ensure that adult relationships model the best example of behaviour.
- 3.4 We aim to develop an understanding of right and wrong, develop self-discipline and a loving concern for others and understanding links between behaviour and beliefs.
- 3.5 We involve the children in the resolving of conflicts.
- Conflict Resolution
 - Staff were introduced to a specific Conflict Resolution approach during Easter Term 2017 as part of inset training – this was delivered by a visiting speaker. The speaker then followed this up by leading a pupil workshop in order to present the approach to the Prefects / UV enabling them to intervene with younger pupils' conflicts. The approach consists of four unambiguous questions:
 - What happened?
 - What were you thinking?
 - How do you feel now?
 - How do we move on?
 - This approach has been adopted as part of our 'supporting a safe, secure and sensitive school environment' ethos, which also includes the strategy (regarding problems):
 - Bin it – Bag it – Bring it
- 3.6 We encourage the children to:
- appreciate the feelings and concerns of others
 - develop and sustain relationships
 - reflect on questions of right and wrong and on their own values
 - discuss their own beliefs and feelings
 - listen with respect to the views and opinions of others
 - discuss issues sensitively
 - exercise care and responsibility for others
 - recognise when they have done wrong and the resulting consequences
 - resolve situations with an apology and a change in behaviour
- 3.7 Through these processes we encourage the children to learn how to forgive themselves and others.
- 3.8 The school seeks to recognise and affirm good conduct, commitment and service to others through its reward systems, and through celebration and thanks.
- 3.9 Moral development is provided through, for example:
- active promotion and use of the God First, Others Next, Self Last maxim
 - providing a safe environment to discuss their thoughts and feelings and resolve conflicts
 - reflecting upon the consequences of actions and taking responsibility to put it right
 - working in groups developing skills of sharing, turn taking and compromise
 - looking after the environment and encouraging children to make strong moral decisions

4 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 We set out to foster the commitment and ability to live and work with others, to share resources and to show concern/responsibility for others in the School and wider community.
- 4.2 The pupils will acquire an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of their families, their peer group and their communities.
- 4.3 Pupils will be encouraged to relate to others and work with others for the common good.
- 4.4 Classroom management will seek to promote group co-operation and mutual responsibility.
- 4.5 Children will be pointed to the value and importance of working and playing together.
- 4.5 We aim to foster a sense of belonging and a willingness to participate/give back to others.
- 4.6 The school sets out to offer a wide range of educational, social, sporting and extra-curricular activities to all its members.
- 4.7 Responsible leadership roles will be encouraged in a range of activities, including prefects.
- 4.8 Social skills are developed through a full range of activities in school so that children will become polite, tactful and confident.
- 4.9 Children are encouraged to participate in and contribute to the life of the community.
- 4.10 Social achievement and service to the community are recognised and celebrated in school.
- 4.11 Fundraising, the way funds are raised and the charities chosen will contribute to developing the habit of care and support for those in need.
- 4.12 Pupils are given the opportunity to choose charities the school should support and to take an active part in carrying out fundraising.
- 4.13 Social development is provided through, for example:
 - group participation in games to promote inclusion and being a member of a club
 - building up independence through personalised challenges
 - actively encouraging and role modelling good manners
 - fundraising events in and out of school
 - positions of responsibility in the House structure

5 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The school aims to broaden children's horizons by introducing them to a range of cultural activities and experiences.
- 5.2 We aim to build up an appreciation of pupils' own cultural heritage and traditions
- 5.3 We introduce children to examples of the wide variety of cultures, beliefs and ways of life.
- 5.4 We give our children the ability to appreciate/respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences through mediums such as art, architecture, film, music, literature, dance and drama.
- 5.5 We aim to foster interest in other people's way of doing things - curiosity about differences.
- 5.6 We aim to give opportunities to experience and appreciate the rich heritage and range of cultures in Britain, in particular through English, Drama, History, RS, Music, Art and Sport
- 5.6 Cultural development is provided through, for example:
 - educational visits to museums, events and places of cultural and historic interest
 - reading and studying stories and traditional tales from Britain and around the world
 - study of a wide range of different cultures through humanities and the arts
 - exploring Christian and other world faiths - looking at traditions and customs
 - working with and for charities and promote idea of putting others before themselves