

Spiritual, Moral, Social, & Cultural Policy

including:

British Values Statement (Page 3)

Prevention of Extremism Statement (Page 4)



Key Facts:

- At Polam 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.
- 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 the cultures

Legal Status: Complies with Part 2, paragraph 5 of the Education
(Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014.

Guidelines

- 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.
- All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing compassion and respect for pupils and their families.
- Both the nursery and school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves. This is fundamental to the ethos of Polam School.
- Children 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.
- Children should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. Nursery and school rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.
- All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in staff's planning and purchasing decisions.

1. Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the nursery and school is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage the National Curriculum (2014) and the general life of the nursery and 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. When required they may need to be provided with props and pictures to enable them to do this.
- 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 nursery and school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- 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
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life

Moral Development

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

- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- 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
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgements

Social Development

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

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Begin to understand the need for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged

Cultural Development

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

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influenced individuals and society
- Recognise Christianity as a world-wide faith
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions

Fundamental British Values

Fundamental British values are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

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

- While different people may hold different opinions about 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to our laws.
- Understand that the school aims and ethos support the rule of English civil and criminal laws and do not undermine our society.
- Be aware of the difference between law of the land and religious law.

- Challenge opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values.
- Develop self-knowledge, esteem and confidence
- Accept responsibility for behaviour and to contribute positively to both the school and wider community.
- Foster respect for others, for democracy and support for democratic processes, understanding how citizens can influence decision making through this process.
- Develop appreciation of the protection of living under rule of law extends to individuals and is essential for their well being and safety.
- Understand that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law and also; that others with different faiths and beliefs (or none) should be accepted and tolerated
- Identify and combat discrimination

Refer also to

'Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools'

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Preventing Extremism

Since 2010 when the Government published the 'Prevent Strategy', there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard children, young people and families from violent extremism.

There have been occasions in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extremist views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation.

The school seeks to protect children and young people against the messages of all violent extremism.

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

- As part of our safeguarding ethos we encourage pupils to respect the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- We ensure that partisan political views are not promoted in the teaching of any subject in the school and where political issues are brought to the attention of the pupils, reasonably practicable steps have been taken to offer a balanced presentation of opposing views to pupils.

2. Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place across all core areas and subjects, 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.

Group 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, eg bullying, death etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people.
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others.
- Consider others needs and behaviour.
- Show empathy.
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally – eg empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc.

Provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, and accepting people who are physically or mentally different.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Links with the wider community

- Visitors are welcomed into nursery and school.
- Links with the Church are fostered
- The development of a strong home-nursery/ school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and staff to work in an effective partnership to support the child.
- Children will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.
- For children in KS1 & 2 to take part in the local Faith Tour
(more information at <http://www.faithinqueenspark.org.uk/faithtours/index.php>)

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed. This can be achieved by:

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning.
- Discussion at staff meetings.
- Sharing of nursery and school work and practice.