

Forncett C.E. V.A. Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

Introduction

Forncett Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School aims to offer the very best learning environment and promote high levels of self-esteem, emotional wellbeing and a lifelong love of learning.

The Christian belief that human beings are created in the image of God, and that each shares in God's purpose to bring life and allow creation to flourish, underpins the work and nature of the school, and is endorsed in our school's vision and values.

Statement of Vision & Values

At Forncett CEVA Primary, we believe that we should love our neighbour as ourselves, treating others as we would like to be treated. We believe that...

- **Every child really does matter**, our school should be as inclusive and accepting as possible. We believe that all children possess gifts, talents and needs of some kind and they should be valued for them. Provision should be as personal and meaningful as we can make it, allowing everyone to shine.
- **Christian values should be at the heart of our school**, helping to guide, inform and inspire us.
- **We focus on the development of the whole child**, providing them with a spiritual, moral, social and cultural toolkit which will equip them for life, enabling them to grow into successful, well balanced, resilient and thoughtful adults who make wise choices in a fast-changing world.
- **Learning should be enjoyable** and become a lifelong addiction!
- **Full engagement with our families, our local community and those further away is sought** in order to build supportive, understanding relationships and share expertise and resources for the benefit of all our children.
- **Our environment is protected** and we aspire to being as sustainable we can be to help protect our children's future.

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.

Christian spirituality and Christian values and principles will be explored in all curriculum areas, especially in RE/Collective Worship, but the integrity and spirituality of pupils from no or other faith backgrounds will be respected. The

diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and pupils will be given access to alternative views.

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families.

The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school. This belief is reflected in our behaviour policy.

Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people and should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. At Forncett, our schemes of work for Collective Worship, PHSE&C and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) all help to teach our children these important lessons for life. The staff and governors all aim to be good role models to help children see these lessons put into practice in daily practice.

General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the 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.
- 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 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 school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Recognise the challenge of Jesus' teaching.

- 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 school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Learn about service in the school and wider community.
- Begin to understand the Christian imperative for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged.

Cultural Development

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

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

Teaching and Organisation

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, 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.

Class 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, e.g. 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.

Many curriculum areas 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 school (in line with school visitor policy & safeguarding procedures).
- Links with the Church are fostered through links with the local churches and the Diocesan Board of Education.
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil.
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility towards it.
- Links with the wider community and other faiths and cultures are actively encouraged.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed by:

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning, by the leadership team
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings
- Audit of policies and Schemes of Work.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Audit of Collective Worship policy and practice.
- Collation of evidence in pupil's work.
- Regular inclusion on the S.I.D.P.

Conclusion

High standards in the area of SMSC development will be sought and maintained by making explicit the school's values expressed in our Statement of Vision and Values, and by establishing the clear principles and values evident in the Christian Biblical concept of loving our neighbour as we love ourselves.

Reviewed: October 2016

Review Date: December 2017

Signed **Date**