



# Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development Policy

March 2019

Ratified by Governors	March 2019
Signed – Headteacher	
Signed – Governor	
Next Review Date	March 2022

## **Rationale**

At Beckley CE Primary, we recognise that social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) development is central to the education of all pupils and permeates the whole curriculum and ethos of the school. It is reflected in the behaviours of individuals and in their interactions and also in the provision of teaching, resources and learning environments.

Social development relates to the development of knowledge and understanding and the acquisition of skills in relating to others. This begins with family and friends and extends to the wider community beyond. Pupils are taught to respect each other and to appreciate each other's similarities and differences. An awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live is also developed.

Moral development relates particularly to developing knowledge and understanding of right and wrong. Pupils learn to make choices in their behaviour through developing knowledge of boundaries and understanding of consequences. They learn by example and by practising through role-play, story and group activities.

Spiritual development is concerned with the exploration and development of feelings and emotions; personality, individuality and uniqueness; and knowledge and understanding of their own and different beliefs and cultures.

Cultural development is concerned with encountering the defining aspects of different cultures. Explorations of values, beliefs, customs, foods, artefacts and stories allow the pupils to make comparisons and develop knowledge of lifestyles and choices of others.

## **Strategies**

SMSC development is taught through and reflected in all areas of the curriculum and through all aspects of school life. Pupils are provided with the opportunities to gain in knowledge and understanding and to develop the skills they need to participate in the life of the community in which they live. For example:

### Social

- There is a high level of staffing at mealtimes and on the playground to promote appropriate social interaction. Pupils play together in group games and imaginative play on their own and with adults.
- Circle times feature in all classes promoting turn taking and social interaction.
- PSHE work contains units on Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World.
- Educational visits within the community.

### Moral

- Children are involved in identifying what good behaviour means and what kind of school we want to be. For example, the School Council draws up codes of behaviour for the playground.
- There is an agreed reward system in place so that all children can earn housepoints for good behaviour as well as academic achievement.
- Weekly special sharing and celebration assemblies ensure that everyone shares in children's success.
- Regular meetings are held to discuss challenging behaviour to ensure that all staff are supported and that ideas are shared.
- PSHE work has units dealing with issues to do with rules, negotiating difficult situations, emotions, caring for one another, making and keeping friends, living in a community.

### Spiritual

- The RE scheme of work contains units on celebrations, festivals and worship from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism.
- Children are encouraged to take part in periods of reflection at different times throughout the school week.
- Through PSHE and circle time activities, children are helped to gain an understanding of their feelings and emotions and their likely impact on themselves and others.
- Mealtimes begin with a collective prayer led by a member of staff.
- Pupils are encouraged to appreciate the awe and wonder of the world around them whenever appropriate occasions arise e.g. looking at beautiful objects in an assembly and looking for signs of spring.

### Cultural

- There are regular celebrations of religious festivals over the year including harvest, Divali, Christmas, Easter, Chinese New Year.
- Geography and RE have units on other cultures and religions.
- English includes units on stories from other cultures.
- All pupils are accepted equally and play an active part in the school community regardless of their colour, religion or gender.
- Children participate in a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities provided by the school.

### Link to Other Policies

- Anti-bullying
- Behaviour
- Mental Health
- PSHE
- Equalities