

OUR LADY OF LOURDES RCPS

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EDUCATION POLICY

Policy approved by: Governors

Date: February 2026

Last reviewed: February 2024

Next review: February 2028

Mission Statement

We follow in the footsteps of Jesus to love, learn and grow.

Our Own Grown Curriculum

Our own grown curriculum provides every child with a Catholic education based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ in which our schools Mission Statement and the Gospel Values underpin all aspects of school life.

We recognise and celebrate that every child is made in the image and likeness of God. Our curriculum is inclusive and meets the needs of every child in our school.

We have grown a curriculum that is progressive and sequential, creative, challenging, fun and enriching. The curriculum provides every child with the knowledge, skills and experiences to become excellent lifelong learners and equip them to embrace the diverse and ever-changing world that we live in.

Introduction

SMSC is embedded in our own grown curriculum. SMSC is deliberately planned for in all subject areas of the curriculum and across the year groups to ensure there is progression and development. SMSC is rooted in our Gospel values which underpins all aspects of school life including prayer and liturgy, behaviour and attitudes in school. As well as through the curriculum, SMSC is embedded in the enrichment opportunities all children undertake including themed days, visitors, trips and extra curricular clubs.

We want all our children to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens. Guided by our Catholic faith, we are committed to providing an environment that:

- Enables children to learn and develop to their full potential
- Ensures respect, forgiveness, empathy for others and accept of differences
- Encourages independence, resilience, cooperation and collaborative working
- Ensures children develop self-discipline and take responsibility for their actions.

In order to facilitate and achieve this, we will provide a curriculum that:

- Engages all children and excites them
- Stimulates questioning and challenge
- Is aspirational, creative, flexible and responsive
- Prioritizes spiritual, moral, social, cultural intellect and physical development
- Educates citizens for today and beyond

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC)

Spiritual development:

Spiritual development is concerned with delivering the non-material aspects of life, focusing on personal insight, values, meaning and purpose. Beliefs that help provide perspective on life may be rooted in a religion, but equally may not. Children explore the fundamental British Value of exploring and respecting the values and beliefs of others.

The Spiritual development of all our children is addressed through the Catholic vision and ethos of the school. As Catholic schools, we address spiritual development through prayer and liturgy and worship.

We are committed to:

- Celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that our children bring as part of their family/ culture heritage and to building an awareness of and respect for others' spiritual and religious beliefs.
- Fostering common human values and building spiritual capacities to promote self-worth
- Developing self-esteem and valuing others
- Helping our children to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on 'big questions'
- Developing our children's curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a lifelong love of learning.

Our Parish community of Guardian Angels' and St Hilda's is integral to our learning and spiritual development. We make regular visits to church and take part in Parish events. Our RE Curriculum teaches world faiths as well as our Catholic faith.

Moral development

Moral development is about knowing what is right and wrong and acting on it accordingly. Moral development is about personal and societal values, understanding the reasons for them and airing and understanding disagreements. This is embedded throughout the school community.

We are committed to teaching:

- Being truthful and honest
- Respecting the rights and property of others, their opinions and customs, even when they are different from our own
- How and when to help others
- How to solve differences of opinions in non-violent ways using the principles of restorative practice.

Children have an understanding of right and wrong and this is drawn directly from our Catholic teaching. This is reinforced through an embedded behaviour policy (Well-being and Readiness to learn policy)

Social development

Social development shows children how to work together effectively, relating well to adults and participating in the local community. It also includes 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 are committed to:

- Fostering the skill and qualities of team building through the development of self-confidence, cooperation, sensitivity to others, reliability, initiative and understanding
- Providing an environment where children can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society
- Teaching the Equalities Act through our curriculum

Our schools are part of a supportive and social community. Children are encouraged to use a range of social skills through planned opportunities such as: The Fiver Challenge; Sacramental Programme with sister school; schools linking project; trips; as well as enrichment activities such as fairs, discos, sporting events.

Cultural development

Cultural development shows children understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and experiencing a range of cultural activities. Children develop the fundamental British Value of exploring, understanding and tolerance regarding the diversity of cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

We are committed to:

- Promoting an appreciation of our own cultural tradition/s and encouraging an appreciation of other peoples' cultural traditions
- Celebrating the richness of culture and tradition
- Teaching global education themes through our curriculum.

Our curriculum allows all children to participate in a range of musical, sporting, artistic and cultural activities.

Teaching and learning SMSC

The teaching of each element of SMSC has been carefully planned and mapped out to ensure all children are taught all elements of SMSC through their curriculum. A curriculum that is progressive, sequential and builds on prior knowledge.

SMSC is also an integral part of our enrichment activities, extra curricular activities and through the wider life of the school.

We are committed to:

- Recognising the importance of our prayer and liturgy in supporting and encouraging SMSC development, including teaching the Equalities Act 2010 and aspects of global education

- Providing an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning resources and strategies that enable children to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- Reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school improvement