

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education Policy
(including the promotion of British Values)

School Values Statement

Learning Together – Growing Together

Here at Lawnside we strive to nurture a passion for life-long learning in everyone, encouraging all children and adults at the school to be confident and independent. We aim to provide opportunities for each and every child to develop their courage, perseverance, self-esteem and aspiration, while all the time feeling safe to take risks, make mistakes and challenge themselves.

At Lawnside we aim to create a happy environment where children can learn, laugh and smile, where all feel part of our family; the Lawnside family, and all feel a strong sense of community.

At Lawnside we value everyone for who they are, celebrating individuality and diversity, and creating a culture where all children have their voice heard and all children encourage each other to achieve the best they can in all areas of school life, creating well-rounded individuals.

Intent

At Lawnside Academy 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.

All members of the school community are encouraged to develop into responsible citizens through the implementation of modern British Values. Modern British Values are shared through the thoughtful and wide-ranging promotion of the children's SMSC development, enabling them to thrive in a supportive, highly cohesive learning community.

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 other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored. 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.

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.

Pupils 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.

Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom 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 teacher's planning and purchasing decisions:

- 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 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.
- To ensure that British Values are frequently and purposefully promoted.

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.
- 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.
- Be able to resolve disagreements.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.
- Morally reflect beyond their own immediate experience, to national and international issues.

Social Development

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

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Have an awareness of moral issues as well as fostering a sense of responsibility and community values.
- Discuss and display expected standards of behaviour.
- Participate in enrichment and extension activities.
- Develop an international perspective through the school's active support of charitable organisations.

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 influenced individuals and society.
- Recognise different religions around the world and their cultural implications.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.
- Be aware of, and celebrate cultural diversity.

Promoting British Values

Lawnside Academy actively promotes the fundamental British Values of:

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

In promoting children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, we are able to actively promote British Values in ways that are appropriate to primary school children.

Implementation

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. SMSC links are made with class learning 'experiences'.

Each half term, a school communal 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and British Values display board is used to exhibit class work. A school portfolio book is kept to evidence work throughout the school.

Class discussions and circle time (this is a time when the class works together to discuss an issue or concern) 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 – e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness, etc.

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.
- Links with the local church are fostered.
- 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 to it.

Impact

- Children are happy and value themselves and others as unique individuals.
- Children have the skills to collaborate critically, respectfully and creatively with each other and with a caring approach.

- Children are able to reflect upon their behaviour and others and can evaluate what makes for good behaviour.
- Children of all abilities achieve in all lessons. All children, including disadvantaged and children with SEND are given the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.
- Because children have developed a good understanding of British Values, they make a positive contribution as responsible citizens.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:

- Monitoring of lesson plans and teaching and learning, by subject leaders / SLT / governors.
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings
- Audit of policies and schemes of work.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Audit of collective worship practice.
- Collation of evidence in pupil's work in school portfolio.
- Regular inclusion on the school development plan.
- Carrying out a regular self-review.
- To support with monitoring and evaluating the school's SMSC provision, a SMSC checklist is used.

Related Documents

Religious Education (RE) Policy

PSHCE policy (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship Education)

Relationships and Sex Education Policy

Version	Date	Author	Notes on revision(s)	Date ratified by governors	Next review date
1	September 2021	C Johnson	New policy written for adoption	October 2021	September 2024

SMSC Checklist

SMSC Questions for Discussion	Yes/No	Evidence/Next Step
1. Do pupils feel free to express and explore their views openly and honestly and listen to the different opinions of others?		
2. Are the children developing their own values while learning to appreciate the beliefs and practices of others?		
3. Are imagination, inspiration and contemplation valued in the classroom?		
4. Are pupils encouraged to ask questions about meaning and purpose?		
5. Are the children given the time and space to experience awe and wonder as they examine our world?		
6. Do we promote an ethos, which helps to develop a clear understanding of right and wrong?		
7. Are the children gaining the knowledge and skills to develop their overall comprehension of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues?		
8. Are we providing an environment for pupils to further their own beliefs, character and behaviour?		
9. Are we helping pupils to approach challenges and problems rationally?		
10. Are there opportunities for pupils to develop wider interests, social skills and community awareness?		
11. Are the pupils involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities?		
12. Are we involving all staff and parents in this area of education?		
13. How do pupils respond to activities and responsibilities outside the classroom, including the wider community?		