



Atherton Sacred Heart RC Primary School

Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Policy

By living out our Catholic faith:
TOGETHER, we ENCOURAGE and ACHIEVE

“He has called you by your name”

The distinctive nature and religious character of our school presents itself in all aspects of our school life especially in the way we aim to assist the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils.

At Sacred Heart, we believe that education is a means of proclaiming and revealing the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to our children, so that they may develop fully as human beings and discover purpose and meaning in their lives, now and in the future.

At Sacred Heart, our Catholic ethos permeates all aspects of school life and supports spiritual, moral, social and cultural development both within and beyond the curriculum. We believe in the God-given dignity of each person and are committed to ensuring all pupils have opportunities to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

The four aspects of SMSC development can be summed up in the following way:

Spiritual Development

- explore beliefs and experience
- respect values
- discover self and the surrounding world
- use imagination and creativity
- reflect
- foster awe and wonder

Moral Development

- recognise right and wrong
- understand consequences
- investigate moral and ethical issues
- offer reasoned views

Social Development

- use social skills in different contexts
- work well with others;
- resolve conflicts
- understand how communities work

Cultural Development

- appreciate cultural influences
- participate in culture opportunities
- understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development happens, for example when pupils:

- are reflective about beliefs, values and more profound aspects of human experience, use their imagination and creativity, and develop curiosity as learners
- develop and apply an understanding of right and wrong in their school life and life outside school
- take part in a range of activities requiring social skills
- develop awareness of and respect for diversity in relation to, for example, gender, race, religion and belief, culture, sexual orientation and disability
- gain a well-informed understanding of the options and challenges facing them as they move through the school and on to the next stage of their education and training
- develop an appreciation of theatre, music, art and literature
- develop the skills and attitudes to enable them to participate fully and positively in democratic modern Britain
- respond positively to a range of artistic, sporting and other cultural opportunities
- understand and appreciate the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life

Opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development at Sacred Heart

Opportunities for SMSC development are often interwoven across the curriculum and in all aspects of school and Catholic life. Below are just some examples:

Spiritual Development

- RE curriculum – Come and See
- 'Respect' and 'Rejoice' activities within 'Come and See'
- studies of other faiths eg. Hinduism
- GREAT Gold Standard [NHS award for good mental health]
- daily collective worship
- 'appreciate the world' [GREAT theme]
- 'exercise your mind and body' [GREAT theme]
- 'think about the future' [GREAT theme]
- use of the peace garden
- listening to music
- focus table for reflection in each class and in collective worship
- marking or celebrating religious feasts, Catholic and other
- marking or celebrating different aspects of the Liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, Pentecost)
- supporting pupils in preparing for and celebrating the Sacraments through the 'With You Always' programme
- links with the Church, St Richard's and parish community, St Margaret Clitherow
- building in time to reflect
- opportunities to be still and times to be quiet
- opportunities to question and wonder why
- appreciating places of beautiful things and places such as Lockerbie and the Lakes
- opportunities for pupils to discover and develop their talents within school and clubs
- provision suiting a range of learning styles

Moral Development

- clear expectations for behaviour: T.E.A.M. and Premiership Player/ Superstar points

- personalised code of conduct displayed in every class
- behaviour plans as needed, B2, B3, positive handling plans
- constant positive reminders about right choices and wrong choices
- conflict resolution of incidents
- annual 'Beat Bullying Blue Day'
- half termly behaviour awards assembly
- weekly 'strengths of character' awards
- all incidences of bullying or discrimination to be dealt with in accordance with policies
- RE Curriculum – Come and See
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation
- School Council
- CAFOD stories from communities around the world
- buddies
- safety and e-safety
- highlighting issues in the media using the First News
- tackling issues even if controversial for some eg. LGBT issues
- fundraising for charity eg. CAFOD, HCPT and Operation Christmas Child
- modelling good practice through relationships and interactions e.g fairness,
- respect for people and respect for differences
- celebrating role models in school, the community and in the news.

Social Development

- building and valuing a sense of community
- 'Friends of SH' community events – bingo, fairs, discos, Easter parade, bag packing
- school led community events such as family walks, sports events, performances
- Leigh Community Choirs [Sacred Heart's choirs in the community]
- 'give something back to the community' projects, carol singing, toiletries for homeless
- parish events such as 'family mass'
- 'relate to others' [GREAT theme]
- opportunities to work co-operatively such as 'talk partners', and 'team challenge'
- team building experiences such as class half termly 'team treat', Lockerbie, Lakes
- 'strengths of character' awards such as friendship, leadership, persistence
- celebration of achievements out in the community, certificates, trophies
- valuing the cornerstones of community, such as fairness, honesty, justice, equality
- making links to gospel values in scripture
- conflict resolution of incidents
- being aware of participating in balanced debate about social issues eg. in First News
- 'World of Work' days.

Cultural Development

- highlighting and celebrating national cultural events such as Diamond Jubilee
- multi-cultural projects eg. French Kermesse, African club
- promoting understanding and respect for all cultures
- extending pupils cultural language, French as MFL
- the Arts as a curriculum strength, Gold Artsmark school
- strong choral tradition, including performances at Bridgewater Hall, Albert Hall Proms
- arts visits and visitors such as the Turnpike, M&M Productions
- exhibitions and displays, including the Drumcroon collection

Updated: September 2017

Next review: September 2019