



A message from Mrs Powell, our SMSC and British Values lead:

SMSC is vital to a well-rounded curriculum as it is embedded in everything the children learn and do. These skills are vital for children to function within society. We follow and refer to British Values within our lessons to help children identify their importance in modern day Britain.

As part of developing SMSC I am always keen to hear from parents / carers who would be willing to share their knowledge and expertise with the children regarding their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

Design and Purpose

Our curriculum enables connections to the lives and heritage of our children and their community. We encourage our children to make positive contributions and an understanding of our community and wider society. The British Values: Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance of those with difference faith and beliefs, are intrinsic in all we do. British Values have strong links to the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) aspects of the curriculum and during our schools' assemblies, Religious Education and RSHE lessons from Early Years to Year 6.

SMSC stands for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development. It underpins everything we do as a school.

The spiritual development of pupils is shown by their:

- ability to reflect upon their and others beliefs and experiences
- Use of imagination and creativity
- ability to make links to places of worship within our local community
- reflection and learning about the world around them
- philosophy for life

The moral development of pupils is shown by their:

- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions which involves discussion and mediation surrounding issues that may arise
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues
- awareness of different charities and having events which highlight the needs of others
- opportunities to develop their own moral compass and feel included

The social development of pupils is shown by their:

- ability to share their voice, as active citizens
- contribution to the local community and wider world through visits, trips and networking
- participation in British Values enabling them to develop the necessary skills to contribute to society.
- chance to engage in clubs and extra-curricular activities

The cultural development of pupils is shown by their:

- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- understanding and appreciation of different languages and cultures within the curriculum
- exploring what connects us with the rest of the world through our Climate Change: The Global Dimension Unit
- acceptance of mutual respect of different cultures and a promotion of racial equality and inclusion

- lessons which focus on art, religion and music from a variety of different cultures
- celebration of diversity and challenge of stereotypes

Difference

Our children learn to be active citizens by ensuring their voices are heard and by bringing our school into the future through their social, moral and cultural development. Our different groups: Eco Committee, Sports Committee, Junior Governors, Senior Leadership Team, Peer Mentors and Play Leaders are able to participate in school and community projects, often working with other schools and organisations. For example supporting Bluebird Care or tree planting with Trustlinks.

Our children use British Values as a basis to encourage skills of participation in a democracy, for example, by voting in elections for our active citizen groups. We ensure our children are aware of key national events such as the General Election.

Our children develop the skills such as how to work with others, communicating their ideas and thinking critically. They gain the knowledge of what values are important to our culture and community, as well as a knowledge and respect of other cultures and religions. We ensure they are equipped to show a high level of empathy and emotional intelligence through this knowledge and skills so that they are well prepared for everyday life and a future outside of school. By participating in key days such as International Family Day and projects like My Future, My Southend, they appreciate and understand diversity and how it relates to the make up of our school and locality.

Across the curriculum we ensure children can ask and answer 'big' questions, encouraging discussion and debate to help develop their 'moral compass' and life philosophies. We raise money for both local and national charities for example for Harvest Festival and Children in Need to ensure our children are able to see and reflect upon the bigger picture.

'Achieving Excellence Together'