



# St John's Church of England Primary School

## SMSC, Values and British Values Policy

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural

Democracy, The Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

<b>Date Approved:</b>	<b>Autumn 2025</b>
<b>Headteacher:</b>	<b>Miss Anna Pyatt</b>
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	<b>Ms Joanna Conn</b>
<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>Autumn 2027</b>

### Love, Respect, Value

St John's Church of England Primary School is committed to high expectations for all and to embracing equality.

*Church schools should have a special concern for the whole child – physically, emotionally, socially, morally, intellectually and spiritually.*

*John Cox - Caring and Sharing*

## **Purpose and Aim**

Our vision of Loving your Neighbour, Respecting Everyone and Valuing Diversity, overarched by our Mission statement of 'Growing together in love and respect' provides the foundation for our children's growth in SMSC.

The school provides a unique educational experience for children through its Christian ethos, together with its understanding of the needs of the community and the pupils. It is wholly committed to high standards at the heart of a richly diverse community. The education and services we provide serve the whole community, providing quality education and the improvement of life chances for all.

St John's celebrates our dynamic blend of ethnicities, languages, cultures and religions. We welcome children from Christian families, from other faiths and from no faith backgrounds. The ethos of St John's is based on core Christian values. These underpin all elements of school life, and enable every child to develop as a moral, social, spiritual and cultural human being.

The school's SMSC policy is built on the Gospel values of Christ and is inclusive by its very nature. SMSC development sits at the core of our school and is evident throughout the school day both in the curriculum and wider school life. It is evident in the children's work, their attitudes to learning, our relationships within the school community, our worship and the school environment.

Every child, whatever their background, will be valued as a unique child of God, and will be enabled to grow in confidence, self-belief and with positive contributions to make to our society.

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC)**

### **Spiritual**

Spiritual development: enables people to reflect within themselves, consider their relationships with others, and the wider world. The spiritual development of all our children is addressed through the ethos of the school.

As a Church of England school, prayer, worship, celebration of festivals and reading/reflection on the Bible within Collective Worship, RE and the wider curriculum will all contribute to the pupils' spiritual development.

We are committed to:

- celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that all our pupils 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 pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on ultimate questions
- developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a sense of awe and wonder.

## **Moral**

Moral development: knowing what is right and wrong and acting on it accordingly. We are committed to encouraging pupils to:

- Live and breathe our Golden Eagle standards for behaviour
- be truthful and honest
- respect the rights and property of others, their opinions and customs; even when they are different from our own
- help others
- solve differences of opinion in non-violent ways

Consequently we reject all forms of bullying, cruelty, dishonesty, violence and discrimination.

## **Social**

Social development: developing an understanding of rights and responsibilities of living in community as well as of being a “responsible citizen”.

We are committed to:

- fostering the skill and qualities of team-building through the development of self-confidence, co-operation, sensitivity to others, reliability, initiative and understanding
- providing an environment where pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society
- encouraging the building of positive relationships to form successful friendships

## **Cultural**

Cultural development: knowledge and understanding of others’ cultural traditions. We value and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school, our society and the world by:

- promoting an appreciation of our own cultural traditions and encouraging an appreciation of other peoples’ cultural traditions
- celebrating the richness of culture and tradition

We show our commitment to the Gospel value by recognising and respecting the beliefs, celebrations and faith of all members of our school community.

## **SMSC development of our pupils**

In the light of these four areas we will ensure that the SMSC development of our pupils is promoted across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school by:

- providing an appropriate range of effective teaching and learning strategies that enables pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution

- encouraging teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to promote SMSC development and to ensure subject leaders have an understanding of SMSC education in their subject
- recognising the importance of our collective worship programme in supporting and encouraging SMSC development
- reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school development.

The following policies are closely linked with our spiritual, moral, social and cultural policy:

- School Vision, Values and Ethos Statement
- Inclusion Policy
- Equality Statement
- Collective Worship Policy
- Subject area policies; especially, but not exclusively, RE, PSHE

### VALUES

Through our Values cycle, the children explore all aspects of SMSC. The values are reflected upon in Collective Worship and celebrated within our children.

Every month we have a different value for the children to deepen their understanding and experience of:

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
September	Growing Together (Co-operation)
October	Thankfulness
November	Courage
December	Joy (Advent)
January	Respect
February	Love
March	Forgiveness (Lent )
April	Hope (Easter)
May	Friendship (Service)
June	Peace (and Justice)
July	Wisdom (and Trust)

## **BRITISH VALUES**

At St John's Church of England School, 'British Values' are promoted through our spiritual, moral, social and cultural education and through our school/Gospel values. These values in conjunction with SMSC development permeate the School's curriculum, both formal and informal, and support the development of the 'whole child'.

### **DEMOCRACY**

**Links to school Values:** Respect, Growing Together, Hope

#### ***UN CRC Article 12:***

*Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account*

- Democracy is embedded at the school
- Pupil voice and 'talk' is valued highly at St John's
- Children are actively taught to listen and respond respectfully to their peers and adults in school and adults in school listen and respond respectfully both to children and all other adults

### **THE RULE OF LAW**

**Links to school values:** Respect, Peace, Wisdom, Forgiveness, Courage

#### ***UN CRC Article 19***

*Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them*

- The Gospel values guide us in our understanding of truth and justice
- The children are involved in drawing up class rules each year
- We provide an orderly and caring atmosphere for learning and teaching to take place
- From Reception children are taught that the school has rules and why these rules are important to keep everyone safe
- Good behaviour is celebrated and children learn about the consequences when rules are broken
- Through the RE curriculum and assemblies linked to the Gospel values, children are taught the difference between right and wrong and are supported to develop a strong sense of morality and to make the right choices even when it is difficult
- We teach the children about the development of the rule of Law in English Law and a legal system inspired by Christian values
- The rule of Law is promoted through teaching that we are all governed by rules that have to be obeyed in society

### **INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY**

**Links to school values:** Respect, Friendship, Courage, Love, Joy, Thankfulness, Hope

***UN CRC Article 31: All children have a right to relax and play and to join a wide range of activities***

*UN CRC Article 15: Children have the right to meet together and join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights*

- We teach the children from Reception that they have both rights and responsibilities and this message is embedded in the school rules; eg. All children have the right to learn and all teachers have the right to teach; all children have the right to be heard and all children have the responsibility to listen
- Through the school values, PSHE and RE curriculum, children are taught about personal responsibility, choices, ambition and aspiration
- They have a wide range of opportunities through both the formal and informal curriculum to follow their interests in art, music, sport etc. and they are encouraged to participate
- Children are encouraged to become good and valued citizens, which we do by supporting all the children to become as independent as possible while nurturing each and every child to ensure that they feel safe and valued and to foster self-esteem

### **MUTUAL RESPECT and TOLERANCE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS**

**Links to school values:** Respect, Love, Forgiveness, Friendship. Peace, Wisdom, Courage, Joy, Hope

*UN CRC Article 14: Children have the right to think and believe what they want, and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.*

- We show respect and good manners to all, treating everyone as equal
- Tolerance of other faiths and beliefs is promoted through the RE syllabus
- Children learn about other religions, their beliefs, places of worship and festivals
- The school recognises and shares in the celebrations of other religions
- Visits are made by other religious leaders and children have the opportunity to visit places of worship