

St. John's Church of England VA Primary School



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education Policy

Head Teacher	<i>N. Pallister</i>
Chair of Governors	<i>A. Harris</i>
Reviewed	September 2025
Next Review	September 2027

Shining Bright Together As One Family

Contents:

1. St. John's Christian Vision and Values
2. Statement of intent
3. Spiritual development
4. Moral Development
5. Social development
6. Cultural development
7. Teaching and learning through SMSC
8. Promoting British Values
9. Role of senior leaders
10. Role of governors
11. Role of staff
12. Monitoring processes
13. Additional support and guidance
14. Conclusion

1. St. John's Christian Vision and Values

We have high aspirations and expectations for all our pupils, aiming to provide a safe and secure environment in which everyone can flourish and grow as God's children. Working together with parents and carers, we are building strong relationships, enabling us to 'Shine Bright Together as One Family.'

This reflects our Christian vision and associated values, where every member of our school community – pupils, parents, staff and governors – has a role to play in ensuring every person thrives. Our vision is based on the words of Jesus written in Matthew chapter 5 verse 16:

“In the same way, let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

The desire at St. John's is for every person to shine their own light brightly, whether it be through academic ability, sport, music, art or personal interest outside of school. Everyone is important and special: a unique masterpiece in the eyes of God.

We also feel it is important that we are never truly alone. At St. John's, we stand together with each other, supporting and helping, celebrating and comforting. We are one school, church and community family, doing life together.

The four core Christian values which are particularly important in the life of our school are:

- Forgiveness
- Friendship
- Respect
- Perseverance

2. Statement of Intent

At St. John's C of E (Aided) Primary School, we believe that Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education is all encompassing and is fundamental to the successful implementation of all other curriculum areas. Our school's Christian vision 'Shining Bright Together as One Family' is central to all school policies and their implementation from nursery to Year 6.

At St. John's, we believe that SMSC is at the heart of all we do for our pupils, their families and our wider school community.

We believe that opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural experiences, both planned and spontaneous, should be discovered every day. For this to be achieved we recognise that all staff understand, plan and respond to SMSC opportunities.

At St. John's, we recognise that the personal development of pupils: spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve their full potential. We believe the values of our school underpin the SMSC development of all learners. Our aim is to provide opportunities for our pupils to develop as independent, confident and successful learners with high aspirations who will know how to make a positive contribution to their community and wider society, both locally and globally.

Our core Christian values of *friendship, forgiveness, respect and perseverance*, work alongside our theologically-rooted vision. Pupils are encouraged to respect and tolerate all members of our community regardless of their faith, race or culture.

At St. John's, we want our pupils to be successful, confident learners and responsible citizens. Guided by our Christian vision and values, 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 acceptance of differences
- Encourages independence, resilience, cooperation and collaborative working
- Ensures pupils develop self-discipline and take responsibility for their actions.

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

- engages, excites is meaningful and rigorous
- stimulates questioning and challenge
- is aspirational, creative, flexible and responsive
- prioritises spiritual, moral, social, cultural intellectual and physical development
- educates citizens for today and beyond

We recognise the importance of the academic, personal development and well-being of every child in our school. This includes recognising the importance of providing a range of opportunities for our pupils to respond to, that supports their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development with an understanding and an overview of teaching the Equality Act (2010) and including global education themes.

3. Spiritual development

Spiritual development is concerned with developing 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 Christian vision and values of school. As a church school we address spiritual development through prayer, Christian worship, celebration of Christian festivals and learning about those of other faiths, reading and reflection on the Bible within collective worship, RE and across the wider curriculum.

We are committed to:

- Celebrating the religious and non-religious beliefs and values that 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
- Self-esteem and valuing others
- Helping our pupils to come to an understanding of themselves as unique individuals and encouraging them to reflect on 'big questions'
- Developing our pupils' curiosity, imagination, creativity and promoting a lifelong love of learning.

At St. John's, in collective worship and across the wider curriculum, we use the shared spiritual language of **WOW**, **OW** and **NOW**. For further information, see our Spirituality Policy.

4. 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:

- 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 using the principles of restorative practice.

5. Social development

Social development shows pupils working 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 pupils can take responsibility for themselves and others in school and the wider society
- Teaching the Equalities Act through our PSHE curriculum.

6. Cultural development

Cultural development shows pupils understanding and feeling comfortable in a variety of cultures and experiencing a range of cultural activities (art, theatre, travel, concerts). Children develop the fundamental British Value of exploring, understanding and tolerance regarding the diversity of cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

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
- Weaving global education themes through our curriculum.

7. Teaching and learning through SMSC

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

- Recognising the importance of our collective worship programme 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 as above that enable pupils to reflect on and respond to the issues of SMSC importance and concern
- Encouraging teachers to plan for and respond to opportunities to develop SMSC development and to ensure curriculum leaders have evidence of provision for SMSC education in their subject maintain a positive climate in school in which all are valued and respected and expected to make a positive contribution
- Reviewing the effectiveness and impact of our policy and practice as part of our cycle of school improvement.
- For further information regarding SMSC, please refer to our collective worship and PSHE policies.

8. Promoting British Values

St. John's is very much committed to serving our community and recognises the multicultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of our world in which we live. We also understand the vital role we have in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school, are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

St. John's also follows equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. Our staff are dedicated in preparing students for their adult life beyond the formal examined curriculum, and ensuring that we promote and reinforce British Values to all our students. (Please see PSHE and Anti-Bullying policies for further information.)

See also: *Flourishing for All: Anti-Bullying Guidance for Church of England Schools (2024)*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-04/nse-flourishing-for-all-final-for-publication-april-2025-inc-parts-ab-c.pdf>

We strive to promote and secure British values throughout our curriculum and Christian vision and values. This statement demonstrates our commitment not only to promoting British Values, but also celebrating and embracing them. The DfE has recently reinforced the need to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British Values of:

- Democracy
- Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual Respect
- Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

9. Role of senior leaders

- Ensures that SMSC and British Values are taught through the curriculum and underpinned by our Christian vision and values and is accessible to all pupils
- Establishes, monitors and evaluates effective SMSC and British Values across school
- Ensures that there are reliable and researched based approaches to assessing, tracking and monitoring pupils' knowledge and skills and learning
- Holds ambitious and high expectations for all staff and pupils for SMSC.

10. Role of governors

- The Governing Body will ensure that all pupils are offered a rich and engaging SMSC and British Values curriculum that meets all needs. They will ensure it provides knowledge, skills and personal development for pupils to achieve well and live happy and fulfilled lives.
- The Governing Body is responsible for monitoring the way the curriculum is implemented.
- The Governing Body will review curriculum development via the curriculum leader's reports, reports from subject leaders, link governors monitoring reports, pupil voice, parental engagement and the Headteacher's reports.

11. Role of staff

- The teachers and other adults who work with the children are pivotal in ensuring that all pupils access and broad and well balance curriculum and ensures that through this curriculum, each pupil achieves to their potential.
- Ensure pupils are inquisitive and challenged
- Assess and monitor pupil knowledge and skills

12. Monitoring processes

This policy is monitored on a day-to-day basis by senior leaders and curriculum leads, who report to governors about the effectiveness of SMSC in school.

13. Additional support and guidance

In addition to the policy measures outlined in this document, a range of other support mechanisms are in place and information on these is shared with all leaders, managers, governors, staff, volunteers and other adults covered by this policy.

14. Conclusion

SMSC development is vital for fostering well-rounded individuals who can contribute positively to society. At St. John's, we adhere to statutory requirements while implementing effective strategies to promote SMSC, ensuring that students are equipped with the skills and values necessary for their future. By prioritising SMSC, we enhance the educational experience and support the holistic development of our children.