



## Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

*Welcoming and Serving All  
Through  
Discovery, Enjoyment and Nurture*

Last review: May 2018  
Reviewed every 3 years  
Next review May 2021

## **Miserden C.E. Primary School Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) Policy**

### **Introduction**

Miserden C.E. Primary school offers a spiritual and moral basis for the development of human wholeness and a sure foundation for personal and social values based on the person and ministry of Christ. As a community of faith, Miserden C.E. Primary School should, reflects the nature of the Trinity, a life shared and defined by reference to others. Here we can begin to discover who we are, why we are, and – perhaps most importantly – what we might be.

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do –

*Welcoming and Serving All*

*Through*

*Discovery, Enjoyment and Nurture*

The school welcomes and serves all in its community. We work to mirror the body of Christ believing that everyone brings gifts and talents that enrich our life together. We treat one another with generosity, compassion, respect, forgiveness and friendship inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan. We strive to ensure the children of our school receive the very best education possible believing that an excellent standard of Education is an expression of God's love for us.

### **Spiritual development**

#### **Aims**

In order to foster spiritual development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Develop an appreciation of their uniqueness and value as a child made in the image of God;
- Develop an understanding of the distinctive ethos of this church school as well as the context, language and symbolism of the Christian faith;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school's core Christian values and the Biblical teaching that underpins them;
- Develop an appreciation of what it means to be a part of a community (e.g. using their gifts and abilities in the service of others);

- Develop the skills and language required to enable them to reflect upon the big questions and mysteries of life;
- Develop an awareness that experiences of disappointment, failure and loss may be occasions for spiritual growth;
- Understand the value of difference and diversity through involvement with others.

### **Teaching and learning**

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as forgiveness, thankfulness, peace and trust, as documented in all school policies;
- Opportunities for spiritual development will be pro-actively planned into the curriculum and actively encouraged in all areas of school life;
- Collective worship will celebrate the love of God for every individual and provide opportunities for children to respond to this;
- The school building and outdoor environment will provide appropriate spaces for silence, stillness and prayer
- That children's spiritual capacities such as imagination, empathy and insight will be fostered through the creative arts and interactive multi-sensory teaching strategies;
- That children's moral development will be linked to spiritual development through strategies such as windows, mirrors and doors;
- That the RE curriculum will deliver knowledge and understanding about a range of perspectives relating to spirituality;
- That children will be given as many opportunities as possible to explore the wonder of the natural world and to develop an understanding of the Christian belief that creation is a gift from God to be enjoyed, cherished and protected.

### **Moral Development**

#### **Aims**

To foster moral development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Recognise the difference between right and wrong and begin to understand how Christian values inform a particular perspective on moral choices;

- Understand how our moral choices can affect the lives of others;
- Be able to work together to agree codes of behaviour that are appropriate for our school community;
- Understand the centrality of forgiveness and reconciliation in the life and culture of our school;
- Begin to engage with big questions concerning morality and ethical issues in the wider community and in the world, and to realise that each of us has a responsibility to work for justice.

### **Teaching and learning**

Through teaching and learning, the school pursues these aims by ensuring that:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life are explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as justice, service, perseverance, courage and truthfulness, as documented in all school policies;
- Opportunities for moral development will be pro-actively planned into the curriculum and actively encouraged in all areas of school life;
- Our Christian values are shared with members of our school community;
- Collective worship and assemblies celebrate practical demonstrations of Christian values lived out in the life of the school, local, and wider community;
- Our behaviour policy makes clear that every child is treated fairly and is always offered the opportunity for a fresh start;
- Parents and carers are made aware, through our website and other documentation, of our school's expectations regarding behaviour, as well as the rewards and sanctions that we operate;
- Children are made aware of moral and ethical issues in the national and international context through, for example, representatives from charities and NGOs being invited into school to talk about their work;
- The School Council is fully involved, alongside teachers, senior leaders and governors in reviewing the impact of our Christian values on the behaviour, culture and ethos of our school.

## **Social Development**

### **Aims**

To foster social development, the school aims to provide opportunities for children to:

- Build relationships founded upon the Christian values (e.g. trust, honesty, forgiveness and service);
- Gain a clear understanding of the place of the church school within the wider Christian community including local, national and worldwide;
- Access pastoral support from school staff, local clergy and parish team members;
- Be equipped to become responsible citizens who recognise the importance of service and working for the 'common good';
- Feel a sense of genuine pride in the school and their membership of it.

### **Teaching and learning**

Through teaching and learning, we pursue these aims by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as friendship, service, generosity and compassion, as documented in all school policies;
- Opportunities for social development will be planned into the curriculum and in all areas of school life;
- Collective worship and assemblies will celebrate and reward practical demonstrations of our Christian values such as, service to the community, and acts of friendship and generosity, particularly shown towards children facing difficulties or challenges through Achievement Worship
- Strong mutually supportive links will be maintained and developed with the local and national church and the worldwide Anglican communion through regular worship in the parish church, participation in parish events, and church members supporting the school through Open the Book, Experience Journeys, Cathedral Leavers' Service, etc.
- Our school community strives to be fully inclusive (e.g. by teaching sign language and modifying our school building to ensure access for all);
- The School Council is trained and supported to play an active part with staff and governors in monitoring and evaluating the social cohesiveness of the school community;

- The Senior Leadership Team prioritises support and engagement with networks (e.g. cluster meetings, school partnerships and conferences run by the Diocese);
- There is active engagement with parents and carers through the 'open door policy' and active support of PTA activities.

## **Cultural Development**

### **Aims**

To foster social development, the school aims to provide children with opportunities to:

- Gain a knowledge and understanding of the values from their own culture, heritage, traditions and an appreciation of how they have evolved and developed over time
- Develop knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the cultures of those with whom they interact day by day, as well as other cultures represented in the UK
- Develop a knowledge of the local Christian heritage, particularly through "Experience Church", visits to local churches and the Cathedral, and to explore their relationship to it
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of the cultural diversity of Christianity through RE, collective worship and events in school
- Understand the relationship between religious belief and culture through a creative, challenging and interactive RE curriculum
- Explore what it means to be a child made in the image of a Creator God
- Understand what it means to be part of a community characterised by openness, hospitality and an eagerness to learn from one another.

### **Teaching and learning**

Through teaching and learning, we pursue our aims by ensuring:

- The curriculum and all areas of our community life will be explicitly rooted in Christian values, such as friendship, generosity, and creativity, as documented in all school policies;
- The curriculum will be delivered using creative and imaginative teaching strategies which allow individual gifts and talents to flourish;
- A range of art forms will be used to teach children about Christian heritage and tradition, and also the heritages and traditions of other faiths;

- Children are given opportunities to take part in and respond to cultural and artistic enterprises.

- Children explore current affairs and different interpretations of events by the media;

Children are given the opportunity to develop their ability to think critically.

- Children explore the ways in which cultural, racial, and religious prejudice can take root and learn how to recognise this and other forms of discrimination as well as ways to counter it;

- Whole school projects which celebrate diversity within the local and wider community feature in our curriculum;

- Knowledge of our Diocese and dioceses overseas teach children that as a church school, we are a part of the World Wide Anglican Communion which comprises a rich cultural diversity of Christian traditions and practices.