



Lamberhurst St Mary's CEP (VC) School

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education Policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years and at any other time if changes are required to comply with changes in legislation, regulation or national or KCC advice. Any amendments will require the approval of the full Governing Body. A copy is stored online in the Teacher Area of the school server.

Date of approval by Governing Body	17 May 2021
Signature of Chair of Governors	Peter Edgesmith
Signature of Headteacher	Caroline Bromley
Date Due for review	Spring Term 2023

Disclaimer

Kent County Council (KCC) and the leadership of Lamberhurst St Mary's Primary School make every effort to ensure that the information in this document is accurate and up to date. If errors are brought to our attention, we will correct them as soon as practicable. Nevertheless, KCC and its employees cannot accept responsibility for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused as a result of reliance on any content in this publication.

Introduction

At Lamberhurst St Mary's C of E Primary School all children are encouraged to develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) awareness and to begin to make personal choices which reflect this development in line with the Christian ethos of our school.

Opportunities for the children to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally are provided throughout the curriculum, during learning sessions, in collective worship, at lunch time, playtime and extra-curricular activities.

Our ethos is founded on Christian teaching and values and in particular recognises the uniqueness and worth of each individual member of the school, both children and adults alike, all of who are loved by God. With this in mind the aim of the school is to encourage children to reflect this love by learning to understand and respect the various beliefs, traditions and practices of others, both within the school and wider community. Our purpose is to ensure that pupils leave us with a maturing understanding of the experiences and values of others and a growing sense of identity based on personal values and self-worth with the community.

Rationale

- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues throughout the curriculum and wider areas of school life
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why
- To give pupils a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that enrich our society
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a social and moral responsibility

Spiritual development

Spiritual development involves the nurture of a fundamental aspect of the human condition that is not necessarily able to be expressed through the physical senses or in words. It involves relationships, with the divine for those who believe, and with other human beings and the natural world. Children should be encouraged to reflect on their own beliefs, feeling and values and the beliefs, feeling and values of others. It recognises the universal search for personal

identity, the challenges of responding to difficult experiences, use of imagination and creativity and the need to find meaning and purpose in life.

Moral and Social development

Moral and Social development encourages a growing awareness that one is part of a wider society in which an individual has responsibilities towards others and may assume certain rights. It involves recognising right and wrong and an understanding that obedience to laws and rules plays an important part in enabling society to function effectively for all. It involves children understanding the consequences of their behaviour and actions. It encourages the acquisition of positive values and beliefs as a foundation for living and the basis for good decision making.

Children will be given the opportunity to participate in community activities and engage with the British values of tolerance, respect, democracy and liberty.

Cultural development

Cultural development enhances understanding of the role of traditions, customs, religious practice and artistic expression in giving identity to groups of people. It involves exploring how these combine to create a rich diversity of heritage and experience in our community and builds increasingly harmonious relationships with others in the wider world. It also gives pupils a maturing understanding of the British democratic system and how this has developed over the history of Britain.

To encourage spiritual development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore the Christian faith and begin to compare with other faiths
- Develop a sense of wonder, awe, mystery and joy
- Listen, reflect and puzzle
- Examine their own feelings, likes and dislikes, and compare these with others
- Develop personal beliefs and values and respect those of others
- Develop insight into the big questions of life, death and change
- Respond to situations of suffering and hardship
- Express doubt, fears and pose questions
- Express feelings, responses and insights through creative media

To encourage moral and social development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Develop a sense of right and wrong in a supportive environment
- Develop self-esteem and take responsibility for one's own actions
- Be aware of the needs of others and develop empathy
- Discuss the need for rules and sanctions and follow the school code and values
- Understand the role of forgiveness and generosity towards others
- Form judgements about appropriate courses of action
- Work collaboratively in a group or team
- Celebrate personal achievement and the success of others
- Assume responsibility and develop early leadership skills and roles

To encourage cultural development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore a range of multi-cultural themes through literature, art, music, dance, religious education and worship
- Participate in visits to places of cultural interest, e.g. art galleries, museums, theatre productions and places of worship
- To engage with artists, musicians, dancers, story-tellers and religious representatives who visit the school
- Perform to an audience or speak publicly in a drama production, religious festival or school forum
- Participate in school and community events such as fayres, fund-raising events and charitable activities

Links with the wider community

Lamberhurst St Mary's C of E Primary School has close links to the community of Lamberhurst village and its wider catchment villages, very close ties to the Church and Diocese, and has a tradition of participation in the life of the local and wider community in Tunbridge Wells, Kent and East Sussex.

These links foster an attitude of care and concern in pupils, who commit themselves readily to such activities as fund raising for the school's nominated charities, supporting the PTA fundraising events, collecting harvest gifts for those in need, participating in the annual service of Remembrance at the war memorial and carol singing at the local home for the elderly.

The school plays an integral part in the life and celebrations of the Village Church, the parish and the wider church and church school community. Clergy and members of the church community are in school regularly for lunch, to lead and share in collective worship, take part in focussed theme days and annual celebrations.

A wide range of volunteers and professionals are welcomed into the school from parent helpers and readers, to members of the emergency services to local artists and leaders of other faiths. The school chooses to work closely with the pre-schools in the villages of Lamberhurst and also Kilndown. We are part of a Partnership of 13 local primary schools and 3 secondary schools known as 'The Cranbrook & Paddock Wood Partnership', 'The Tenax Trust', in preparation for our conversion to academy status and to our link school Chikombola in Malawi.

We provide wrap around child care from 8 am – 6 pm via Breakfast and Care Clubs and also a wide range of after school activity clubs which dovetail with Care Club and supper.

The work of the school has been recognised by The British Council for its work on developing Global Citizenship and by HRH The Prince of Wales as a leading example of Social Action via the school '#ICAN' projects.

