



## Federation of Elson and Gomer Infant Schools Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

### Definition

At the Federation of Elson and Gomer Infant Schools the promotion of pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education is considered to be a whole federation commitment.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted not only through all the subjects of the curriculum but also through the ethos of the schools and through the development of positive attitudes and values.

This policy supports and reinforces the aims of the Federation in valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

### Principles

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for pupils to gain knowledge, understanding and skills to enable them to participate in society as active Citizens. It enables them to become informed, critical and responsible, aware of their duties and rights, and know they belong to a community. We support the children with their own feelings and teach them empathy and tolerance of others in order to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. In our federation SMSC makes a significant contribution to pupils' behaviour and safety awareness and the school's statutory responsibility to promote pupils' emotional wellbeing. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is cross curricular and promotes the aims and principles of the policies for PDL, RE, British Values (BV), Drug Education, Sex and Relationship Education, Race Equality, Disability and Equal Opportunities. These policies all underpin the Curriculum model as putting the child at the centre of all we do.

It is an expectation of the Federation that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies e.g. discussion, reflection, pupil participation including pupil voice/school council, circle time etc.

The importance of relationships between all school staff, parents and governors is crucial. These relationships will be characterised by mutual respect, by positive attitudes, by the willingness to listen and be listened to and by the valuing of all pupils.

### **Spiritual Development**

This relates to the quest for individual identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It has to do with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs. It is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith and spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone.

### **Aims for Spiritual Development**

- The ability to listen and be still
- The ability to reflect
- The ability to sense awe, wonder and mystery in the world
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships

### **Objectives for Spiritual Development**

- To develop the skill of being physically still, yet alert
- To develop the skill to use all ones senses
- To develop imagination
- To encourage times for quiet reflection throughout the school day
- To develop individual self confidence

### **Moral Development**

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and from conviction rather than sanctions, consequences and incentives. In our federation we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour.

### **Aims for Moral Development**

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions

- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions

### **Objectives for Moral Development**

- To tell the truth
- To respect the rights and property of others
- To help others less fortunate than themselves
- To be considerate to others
- To take responsibility of own actions and be aware of their behaviour affects others
- To exercise self-discipline
- To develop high expectations and a positive attitude
- To conform to rules and regulations to promote order for the good of all

### **Social Development**

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local and wider community. Within this there should be a balance of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group or society along with the demands, obligations and co-operation such membership requires.

### **Aims for Social Development**

- To relate positively to others
- To participate fully and take responsibility in class and school
- To use appropriate behaviour across a range of situations
- To work co-operatively with others
- To use own initiative responsibly
- To understand our place in our family, school and society

### **Objectives for Social Development**

- To be able identify and share a range emotions appropriately such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear and reverence
- To be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others, even if it is not how they feel
- To work as part of a group
- To interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, visits, church services, music festivals etc.

- To develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a part of a caring community
- To show care and consideration for others e.g. sharing and turn taking
- To realise that every individual can do something well and have something to offer

### **Cultural Development**

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

#### **Aims for Cultural Development**

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background
- To respond to cultural events
- To share different cultural experiences
- To respect different cultural traditions
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition
- To develop a balanced approach to retaining the traditions of our Christian society, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures and faiths, past and present

#### **Objectives for Cultural Development**

- To develop an awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts, i.e. Music, Art, Drama, Literature etc.
- To develop a love for learning
- To develop an understanding of different cultures and beliefs, including Christianity
- To appreciate and respect the values and customs of other ethnic and faith groups which make up modern British society, and the world beyond
- To develop the ability to value these independently

#### **General Aims for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development**

In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988 the Federation aims towards ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society

- To promote and celebrate British Values in our ethos and curriculum
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life
- To promote respect and consideration for differences in gender, race, religion
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society
- To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum
- To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self respect and self confidence
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities

### **Evidence/Assessment**

Informal assessment is primarily through observation of pupil behaviour, the views pupil voice/council express and through discussion amongst staff. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development opportunities is also assessed by identifying opportunities on curriculum planning by subject leaders as well as on Year Group half termly overviews. In addition to this the school's websites

will be updated half termly to celebrate 'Awesome and Wonderful' moments across the Federation.

**Agreed by:**  
HEADTEACHER CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

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DATE:

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