

# Roaches Farm School Network

## SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL Policy

### Introduction

We recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve.

We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

This is a whole school issue.

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum.

The integrity and spirituality of pupils from other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and pupils will be given access to alternative views.

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families.

The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals, and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school.

Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.

Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in teacher's planning and purchasing decisions.

### General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school
- 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 each pupil 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 now enrich our society

- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility

### **Spiritual Development**

- As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:
- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life
- Recognise and reflect on multi faith approaches to Spiritual Development

### **Moral development**

- As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:
- Recognise the unique value of each individual
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others
- Distinguish between right and wrong
- Show respect for the environment
- Make informed and independent judgements

### **Social Development**

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Learn about service in the school and wider community

### **Cultural Development**

As a school we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions

### **Teaching and Organisation**

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle.

**All curriculum areas should seek illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.**

**Class discussions, social time, break and lunchtimes will give pupils opportunities to:**

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events, eg bullying, death etc
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider others' needs and behaviour
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop the skills and attitudes that enable pupils to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally — e.g. empathy, respect, open mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness

**Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:**

- Listen and talk to each other
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals
- Agree and disagree
- Take turns and share equipment
- Work cooperatively and collaboratively

**Links with the wider community**

- Visitors are welcomed into school.
- The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents/carers and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil.
- Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:
- Curriculum Coordinators identify aspects within their subjects to be included in teacher planning. Coordinators monitor teacher plans and their evaluations and assessments
- Coordinators will monitor resource provision, identifying shortfalls
- The Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teachers shall have oversight of this policy and monitor the provision of SMSC

## **STATEMENT ON THE DUTY TO COMBAT EXTREMISM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This statement has been agreed in order to make clear the response of The Farm Schools Network to the legal duties described in Part 2 of the Independent School Standards as amended by the Education (Independent School Standards) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

The Statement will be reviewed annually.

### **DUTIES OF MEMBERS OF STAFF**

Teachers must not promote partisan political views in the teaching of any subject and are required to ensure that whenever political issues are brought to the attention of pupils a balanced presentation of the opposing views is offered. This requirement applies not only during scheduled lessons but in all contexts.

### **THE CURRICULUM AND COMBATING EXTREMISM**

The school's ethos and values informs the curriculum, as it does all aspects of our work. The values include the following, which help to set the context for our corporate attitude to extremism: vigour and optimism in embracing the future; acceptance of personal responsibility; equal value accorded to **all** persons; courtesy, self-discipline and respect for others; honesty, moral courage and integrity; and good fellowship.

The promotion of **both** (a) personal responsibility, understanding of the differences between right and wrong and respect for the civil and criminal law and (b) an understanding of how individuals can contribute to the wellbeing of those in the locality and beyond are addressed in many different subjects and contexts, including assemblies.

The Farm Schools Network takes pride in the personal and spiritual development of its young people and seeks to provide every opportunity for the pupils to become positive and emotionally resilient adults with the knowledge and confidence to stand by their own convictions. The school's learning aims to be a 'safe place' for students to share their views. The specialist teachers have up to date and relevant knowledge that enables them to give the students the material to help them formulate their own ideas, but also to counter stereotyping and prejudiced views. Student preconceptions are always respected.

This policy was agreed and adopted in December 2013.

To be reviewed annually - Reviewed July 2021