

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMSC) POLICY

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Person(s) Responsible for Review:	SLT (VF)

INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines how we support the children’s spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development at The Manor. It should be read in conjunction with our Fundamental British Values Statement, Learning for Life (PSHEE/PSED) Policy, and RSHE Policy.

At The Manor, we actively promote the SMSC principles that enable children to develop self-knowledge, self-esteem, and self-confidence, whilst fostering an understanding and respect for 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 encourage children to distinguish right from wrong, take responsibility for their behaviour, and contribute positively to society. Our curriculum also promotes an understanding of public institutions and cultural traditions.

Each dimension of SMSC is outlined separately below, although please note that there is a great deal of overlap between the four areas.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Spiritual development helps children reflect on their personal beliefs, values, and perspectives. It encourages an appreciation for beauty, truth, and goodness and an understanding of life’s deeper meaning. It can be nurtured through a broad curriculum, artistic expression, and experiences that promote reflection, empathy, and understanding of others’ beliefs and cultures.

How We Promote Spiritual Development at The Manor:

- We offer a balanced curriculum encouraging creativity, reflection, and exploration.
- Children engage in regular collective worship and assemblies, which often include a spiritual focus.
- Lessons in RE, Learning for Life (PSHEE/PSED), Mindfulness and experiences such as visits and guest speakers promote spiritual awareness.
- Events like the Creative Minds Festival, Carol Service, and charity activities provide children with opportunities for personal reflection and giving.
- We encourage curiosity, compassion, and resilience in our children as they develop their personal beliefs and values.

MORAL DEVELOPMENT

Moral development focuses on teaching children the difference between right and

wrong, and the importance of personal responsibility. We foster qualities like honesty, kindness, and respect for others.

How We Promote Moral Development:

- We set clear expectations for behaviour based on our school values, including respect for others and the environment.
- Where friendship issues or unkind behaviour occurs, we seek to resolve these matters using 'Restorative Practice', taking time to fully explore how each child is feeling, encouraging empathy, and resolving matters in a supportive and collaborative way.
- Through Mindfulness lessons, Learning for Life and RE lessons, children engage with moral issues and reflect on personal responsibility.
- Charitable initiatives, environmental education, and classroom discussions reinforce moral awareness.
- Assemblies and extracurricular activities encourage children to consider their actions and their consequences.
- We arrange talks and workshops delivered by Thames Valley Police to teach children about the rule of law and kind, respectful behaviour.
- Children learn about ethical decision-making, justice, and respect for others' opinions.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

We emphasise the importance of strong relationships, cooperation, and respect for others in our school community. Children are encouraged to work together, resolve conflicts, and contribute to the school and wider community.

How We Promote Social Development:

- Activities like the School Council, team projects, and residential visits encourage collaboration and responsibility.
- Through Learning for Life lessons, children develop social awareness and understand their role in the community.
- As outlined in the previous section, we focus on teaching empathy, conflict resolution, and the importance of being respectful and inclusive.
- Children are encouraged to appreciate diversity and support their local community, such as through our partnership with a nearby Care Home.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Our school celebrates diversity and encourages children to appreciate both their own and other cultures. Cultural understanding is promoted through exposure to literature, art, music, and traditions from around the world.

How We Promote Cultural Development:

- We celebrate various cultures through activities, events like Culture Day, and trips that introduce children to different traditions.
- Our curriculum includes global perspectives and a variety of cultures in RE, Geography, and History, as well as in assemblies.
- Special food days and displays highlight the richness of different cultures.

- Children are encouraged to share their cultural practices and experiences, enriching the learning environment.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We monitor the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of children through the monitoring and assessment of Learning for Life lessons, as well as self-assessments and feedback forms which children complete themselves. This process helps track progress for all children.

CONCLUSION

At The Manor, we aim to nurture the full potential of every child spiritually, morally, socially, and culturally. We model high standards of behaviour, respect, and responsibility. Our warm and supportive environment fosters a sense of belonging and helps children grow into thoughtful, compassionate individuals who contribute positively to society.