

St John's C of E VA First School

SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY



'Together we have roots to grow and the wings to fly.'

This policy should be taken as part of St. John's C. of E. First School's overall strategy and is implemented within the context of our vision of Government aims and our values as a Church of England School.

Review

Review Cycle	Date of Current Policy	Author(s) of Current Policy	Review Date
	January 2023	Deputy Headteacher	

Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chair of Governors	Claire Levene Plumb	CLAIRE LEVENE PLUMB	
Head Teacher	Joanna Greathead	JOANNA GREATHEAD	
DSL	Nicole Simenton	NICOLE SIMENTON	

Details of Policy Updates

Date	Details

Introduction:

- From a Church of England foundation, St John's First School follows and promotes the principles of Christianity by example and direct teaching whilst recognising that not all of its members will be practising Christians.
- In our school our Christian vision shapes all that we do, *'Together we give children the roots to grow and the wings to fly'*
- Our school vision, *'Together we give children the roots to grow and the wings to fly'* is based around elements of the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:1-23. Jesus explains that when seeds are planted in good soil, they grow and thrive. When seeds are planted in bad soil or on unsuitable ground, the roots cannot grow, meaning the plants are weak. Jesus goes on to say, when seeds are planted in good soil they grow and bear fruit.

Aims and Objectives:

The aims of our school are:

- To encourage children to explore and live out our St John's core values of Friendship, Aspiration and Respect.
- To encourage children to explore and live out our core Church of England values and to realise that with these at the centre of their lives, they will be sowing the seeds of:

Learning to gain WISDOM

Uniqueness to show dignity and RESPECT

Life to have HOPE

Responsibility to gain SELF-CONTROL

Community to build FRIENDSHIP

Courage to PERSEVERE

- To work together using our core Christian values to ensure a caring environment, where every member of our school community, without exception, feels included, valued and respected.
- To provide the highest quality teaching, support and leadership to our entire school community, celebrating every child's uniqueness.
- To nurture self-belief and emotional intelligence by supporting each other with positive friendships and compassion.
- To promote curiosity and challenge with children inspired to ask questions to further their understanding of the world around them.
- To provide a fun and engaging environment where adults are enthused and children are motivated to learn and grow with confidence.
- To communicate our love for this school, and share our passion for learning and knowledge.
- To be creative in helping to develop well-educated, happy, confident children through a school curriculum that is rich in spiritual, cultural and artistic experiences.

Spiritual Development:

- Through our Christian core values of Wisdom, Respect, Hope, Self -Control, Friendship and Perseverance we walk together with our children on a journey of mutual learning and development.
- We encourage periods of quiet, music and prayer so that children can become conscious of a spiritual dimension to their lives.
- We understand that we develop through and with each other, and that together we are more.
- We respect and give equal value to the different ways in which children, staff and governors interact and contribute.
- We aim to inspire an enthusiasm for lifelong learning.
- We help each other to face our daily challenges with honesty and courage.
- As a town school, we embrace the differences our local environment brings as part of our growth and learning.
- We treasure our Church of England sense of community and giving, which nurtures empathy and compassion across the school.

Moral Development:

As a school we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable our pupils to:

- Recognise and value the uniqueness of each individual.
- Recognise the significance of Christian teaching, understanding the difference between right and wrong, and recognising that compassion, love and empathy are fundamental to a Christian life.
- Listen and respond with empathy to the views of others even when those views are different to their own.
- Gain the confidence with Growth Mindset skills to respond positively to setbacks and learn from mistakes. 'I cant do itYET!'
- Take the initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Understand the concept of responsible stewardship of, and respect for, the natural world.
- In as many areas as possible, learn to 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.
- Develop a Christian sense of community, service to others and giving.
- Begin to understand the concepts of empathy and compassion for others
- Understand the importance of recognising our own worth, knowing we are loved and sharing that love with others.

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 this influences individuals and society.
- Recognise Christianity as one of a number of great world faiths and to be able to compare and contrast its teachings with others.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Be exposed to cultural experiences and background knowledge that will equip them with cultural knowledge to propel them further in their education, careers and social development.
- Promote the basic British values of **democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance** for those of different faiths and beliefs
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions.

Monitoring

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis through:

- Curriculum planning which identifies aspects within each subject to promote SMSC values.
- Head teacher and governors monitoring resource provision, identifying shortfalls.
- Head teacher and governors having oversight of this policy and monitoring the provision of SMSC.