



Hilltop First School and Foundation Stage

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) statement

Document author	LB
Approved by	FGB
Approval date	13 November 2023
Review date	1 March 2025

Hilltop first School and Foundation Stage SMSC Statement

Table of Contents

Definition.....	3
Principles	3

SMSC Statement

Definition

At Hilltop First School we recognise that pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides all pupils with opportunities to:

- explore their own values and beliefs and spiritual awareness
- develop high standards of personal behaviour with a positive, caring attitude towards other people
- understand their own social and cultural traditions and develop an appreciation of the diversity and richness of the cultures represented across the school

Principles

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is as valuable for individual pupils as it is for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about; helping pupils grow and develop as people. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is cross-curricular, promoting the aims and principles of the policies for PSHE, RE, Safeguarding, Relationships and Sex Education, Race Equality, Disability and Equal Opportunities. These policies, alongside our school values of curiosity, inclusiveness, kindness, aspiration and resilience, underpin our curriculum model as putting the child at the centre of all we do.

It is an expectation within Hilltop First School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth of our pupils.

Staff across Hilltop First School support pupils' *spiritual* development through:

- helping pupils to recognise and celebrate their own beliefs
- promoting respect for different people's feelings and values
- encouraging a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about ourselves, others and the world around us, including the intangible
- valuing imagination and creativity in pupils' learning
- creating opportunities for pupils to reflect on their experiences
- taking time to enjoy moments of *awe and wonder* (e.g. rainbows and ice on spiders' webs)

Staff across Hilltop First School support pupils' *moral* development through:

- helping pupils to recognise the difference between right and wrong and encouraging them to apply this understanding in their own lives
- supporting pupils' understanding of the consequences of their actions
- developing pupils' interest in exploring, and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues
- modelling respect of the viewpoints of others

Staff across Hilltop First School support pupils' *social* development through:

- providing different contexts in which pupils can develop a range of social skills
- encouraging pupils to cooperatively participate in a variety of social settings
- supporting pupils in resolving conflicts effectively
- encouraging pupils to take an interest in both their own and others' communities
- modelling and explaining the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

Staff across Hilltop First School support pupils' *cultural* development through:

- helping pupils to gain an understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage

- providing opportunities for pupils to compare differing cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities and recognise and celebrate similarities
- providing artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural experiences in which pupils can participate and role models to which
- encouraging an interest in exploring, understanding, and respecting cultural diversity, as shown by their attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values as well as planned time for reflection. 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 Hilltop First 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.