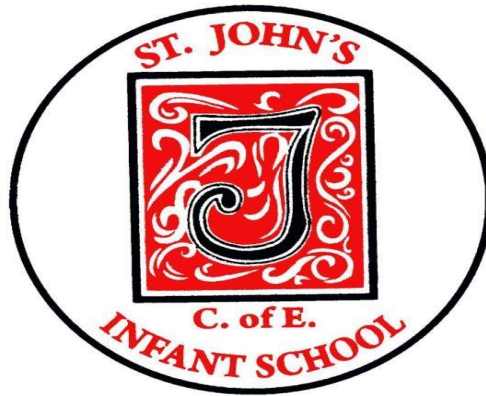


SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL POLICY

St John's Church of England Primary
School



Date Approved	Sep 2024
Review date	Sep 2025

From the smallest of seeds fed with faith and love our St John's family will flourish and grow

All of our policies are written with the aim of improving our school and of realising our Christian vision:



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Our vision underpins every document, procedure and decision made within our setting. We are committed to enabling all members of our small community to **flourish and grow** through the values of faith and love and to ensuring that they go on equipped for 21st century living and to have a positive impact on the world.

Based on the teachings of Matthew 13:31

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Religion and World Views and Collective Worship policies

Our rationale for SMSC in school

"Church schools must be distinctively Christian and inclusive communities, seeking to bring children from different backgrounds together as a distinctive expression of Christ's commandment to love one another..." (The Way Ahead)

This Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural policy along with the school vision and core school values set the whole ethos for St John's C of E Primary School and are integral to all areas of teaching and learning within it.

It is especially important in a Church School, that there is a strong sense of caring for the whole school family and community and that each person feels valued as an individual.

Although the school promotes the teachings of Christianity, we recognise that spiritual development is not limited to religious beliefs and knowledge but embraces a much wider code of beliefs and attitudes.

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Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development at St John's C of E Primary School, should lead children to make their own informed decisions throughout life based on a strong sense of right and wrong and self-dignity, whilst respecting the views and beliefs of others.

Our aims for Spiritual Development in school The Spiritual Development of the St John's family is a journey of discovery which is concerned with their search for meaning and purpose in life. It relates to a dimension of life which extends beyond the physical senses and focuses much more on attitudes, beliefs, feelings and emotions. In church schools, the spiritual development of children and young people should be promoted within the context of the Christian ethos of the school. It should be evident in acts of worship, in Religious Education and across the whole of the curriculum.

Through spiritual development at St John's School, pupils are provided with opportunities to do the following:

- To think about themselves, how they relate to their families and other people, to the wider world in which they live and to God
- To reflect beyond and within themselves on God's creation and the precious nature of human existence
- To develop greater self-awareness and self-esteem
- To encounter a sense of awe, wonder and mystery
- To experience opportunities for creativity, curiosity, freedom, imagination and response.
- Learn in a safe and secure environment in which all are valued for the unique contribution each one of them can make
- Participate in the life of the school in ways that contribute to the well-being of everyone
- Express their beliefs, experiences, insights and feelings without a fear of ridicule, knowing that their ideas matter and are taken seriously
- Respect the rights of pupils who do not wish to discuss personal or sensitive issues and enable pupils

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to share what they have in common and to celebrate their differences

- Develop capacity for critical and independent thought
- Express imagination, inspiration, insight, empathy and understanding
- Experience moments of meditation, stillness, silence and reflection
- Explore issues concerned with the value and nature of human life
- Reflect upon the inspiring quality of the world and focus on the power of nature or the creative imagination of human beings

Our aims for Moral Development in school

The moral development of the St John's family relates to the development of attitudes, beliefs, feelings and emotions which enable family members to share what they have in common and to celebrate their differences in a morally diverse world. In church schools, the moral development of children and young people should be promoted within the context of the Christian ethos of the school. It should be evident in acts of worship, in Religious Education and across the whole of the curriculum.

Moral Development in St John's C of E Primary School takes place within a Christian context. The Bible provides an excellent foundation in determining a baseline for Christian moral truth:

- The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20.1-19)
- The teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- Jesus' summary of the Law (Matthew 22.37-39)
- The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5.22-23)

Through moral development at St John's School, pupils are provided with opportunities to do the following:

- Be treated positively and with respect
- Consider the vision and values which underpin the ethos of the school
- Develop the skills of listening and decision making with regard to moral issues

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- Be made aware of moral dilemmas facing individuals and groups within society and the difficulties which may be encountered in the resolution of such dilemmas

In RWV, teachers use contemporary experience in the lives of the pupils, the school and the community, together with the teaching of world faiths and the lives of individuals, to provide opportunities for the moral development of:

- Personal values in relation to the self and others, such as self-knowledge, self-control and responsibility e.g a topic on forgiveness
- Awareness of feelings which motivate action such as anger, hatred, greed, envy, love, joy, compassion, gratitude. One way to develop this awareness in RWV would be through topics such as “Temptation” or “Bullying ”
- Human qualities such as sensitivity, love, cooperation, respect for persons and property.
- Understanding of commitment and responsibility. This can be illustrated by story, example, lifestyle and practices within a faith community.
- Understanding of right and wrong. Exploring questions such as when we need rules, what the limits of rules might be, the meanings of punishment, justice and forgiveness and the application of religious codes such as the Ten Commandments (Jewish, Christian) or the Five Pillars of Islam (Muslim).
- A sense of justice. Exploring questions about what is fair. Examples might include work on fighting injustice, inequality, discrimination and exploitation, defending the poor and outcast, strengthening the poor.

Our aims for Social Development in school

The St John’s family’s social development involves acquiring an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of families and communities – local, national and global – and an ability to relate to others, and to work with others for the common good. It involves displaying a sense

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of belonging and an increasing willingness to participate. It involves developing the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes that are needed to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of our communities.

Through social development at St John's School, pupils are provided with opportunities to do the following:

- To relate positively to others and respect differing viewpoints and ideas
- To participate fully and take responsibility in the classroom and around the school
- To use appropriate behaviour in a range of situations
- To engage successfully in partnership with others
- To exercise personal responsibility and initiative
- To understand that, as individuals, we depend on family, school, church and society
- To share emotions – love, joy, hope, anguish, fear, reverence, etc
- To show sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others
- To work as part of a group
- To interact positively with others in contacts outside school – sporting activities, visits, church services, music festivals*
- To develop an understanding of Citizenship and to experience being part of a whole caring community including school, town and church
- To show care and concern for others by sharing and taking turns
- To realise that there are things that each person can do well
- To celebrate success and give support when things are not going so well
- To be faced with challenges and develop the skills of resilience/ perseverance

Our aims for Cultural Development in school

The cultural development of the St John's family relates to the development of attitudes, beliefs, feelings and emotions which enable members to share what they have in common and to celebrate their differences in a culturally diverse world. In church schools, the cultural development of

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children and young people should be promoted within the context of the Christian ethos of the school. It should be evident in acts of worship, in RWV and across the whole of the curriculum.

Through cultural development at St John's School, pupils are provided with opportunities to do the following:

- Think about themselves, and how they relate to other people in the wider world
- Gain a knowledge and understanding of their own culture and traditions
- Experience opportunities for exploring beyond their own cultural traditions and broadening their cultural horizons and aspirations
- Reflect beyond and within themselves on God's creation and the diverse nature of humanity
- Recognise the importance of love and understanding in the Christian faith and of developing attitudes which challenge intolerance, prejudice and injustice
- Understand, value and learn from the rich cultural diversity within and surrounding the school, and in the national and international context
- Enjoy and participate in, the cultural life of the school, the Church and the wider community
- Support equal opportunities throughout the school (with regard, for example, to race, disability, age or gender)
- Learn in an atmosphere that encourages respect and acceptance of cultural diversity
- Share what they have in common and to celebrate their differences

How SMSC is taught within school

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects are found in all areas of the curriculum and in cross-curricular themes but especially through the RWV scheme of work which incorporates teaching and learning on aspects of

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relationships and feelings as well as introducing religious knowledge and elements of worship.

Specific SMSC lessons are not delivered in class, however, pupils are encouraged to question, investigate discuss and appraise from an early age. Termly themes enable pupils to explore their knowledge and faith in a wider sense e.g. a topic on 'Growth' challenges the children to look at the wonders of creation and a topic on 'Ourselves' gives children the opportunity to look at relationships.

Statement of equality

This policy serves to ensure that all members of the St John's family, whatever their background, disability, ethnicity, gender, learning difficulty, nationality, religion or sexual orientation are welcomed, dealt with fairly and are treated with dignity and respect.

Date: September 2025

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