

Meadow Lane Infant School



Policy for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (including British Values)

Last reviewed	February 2015
Review Cycle	2 Years

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSCD) at Meadow Lane

Introduction

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child is recognised as being of fundamental importance for the education of all children by Governors, staff and parents of our school. It is taught through all subjects of the curriculum and is integral to the ethos of our school. It supports all areas of learning and can contribute to the child's motivation to learn. It is recognised that such development will be most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by the staff provide a model of behaviour for the children. It can enrich the individual's appreciation of life's experiences and their relationships with others.

Within our school mission statement the following aims support our teaching of SMSCD:

The Meadow Lane School Motto is 'Reach for the Sky and Be a Star!'

At Meadow Lane we provide a stimulating, fun, caring and secure environment in which the lives of the children are enriched to enable them to achieve their physical, emotional, academic and social potential. Ultimately, we aim to foster a joy for learning and for life and enable the children to make a positive contribution to society.

1. To develop a feeling of self-worth and contentment, whilst considering the feelings and needs of others.
2. To develop positive moral attitudes, enabling children to make informed, responsible choices about their behaviour and actions in and out of the school community.
3. To be an inclusive school accepting, supporting and nurturing each other.
8. To work co-operatively and sensitively within the school and within the wider local and global community.
9. To encourage curiosity through enrichment of the curriculum.
15. To develop an understanding and celebration of a wide range of cultures, faiths and differences.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is connected to feelings and emotions. We encourage the children to talk about their feelings and those of others. We give them numerous opportunities to respond to experiences and stimuli, encouraging discussions and debate. It enables us to help the children to make sense of the world in which they live and to develop views and feelings about their connections to the world around them.

At Meadow Lane we promote spiritual development by:

- Offering children a wide variety of stimuli and experiences.
- Enabling a sense of awe and wonder through 'Wow!' events.

- Using drama to stimulate discussion.
- Careful planning of assemblies and encouraging the children to reflect on the experience.
- Using art and music to stimulate imagination and creativity.
- Asking higher order questions – how does that make you feel? What do you think about? What is your opinion? (Blooms taxonomy)
- Encouraging the children to verbalise their inner voice.
- Developing a sense of what is important in life.
- Enabling as many opportunities within our curriculum and topic planning for reflection, questioning. Debate and emotional responses.
- Teaching the children to value others opinions.
- Fostering high self esteem by encouraging the children to take risks or face challenges in their learning with resilience.
- Giving the children many opportunities for paired and groups work to encourage co-operation, listening and discussion.

Social Development

Social development is about the children working effectively with each other and participating successfully in the school community as a whole. It enables the development of the skills and personal qualities necessary for living and working together and the development of the interpersonal skills necessary for successful relationships. Social Development teaches the children about functioning effectively in a multi-racial, multicultural society.

At Meadow Lane we promote social development by:

- Planning a wide range of topics and opportunities for the children to work together.
- Teaching a thorough PSHCE curriculum.
- Encouraging teamwork through PE and games.
- Developing a cohesive school community for all stakeholders.
- Holding a variety of events to involve parents and the local community
- Developing an effective School Council
- Encouraging a variety of responsibilities with Playground Buddies, ECO team, Sports Leaders, etc.
- Developing a meaningful link with the Kings School in Ghana
- Working closely with our Family of schools
- Teaching the children to resolve conflicts effectively.
- Encouraging the children to take part in events in the local community
- Developing an understanding of the similarities and differences between people.

Moral Development

Moral Development is about developing the ability of the children to recognise the difference between right and wrong and the readiness to apply this understanding in their own lives. It helps

the children to develop an understanding of the consequences of their actions and encourages an interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues.

At Meadow Lane we promote moral development by:

- The implementation of an agreed behaviour policy, rules and behaviour codes across school.
- Teaching a thorough PSHCE curriculum.
- Enabling the children to make decisions.
- Developing a team ethos throughout the curriculum.
- Using stories to unpick moral messages.
- Using songs and stories to reinforce the School ethos.
- The school motto.
- Empowering children to be good role models and to value good behaviour.
- Developing the children's self esteem and self confidence to deal with any issues that may arise.
- Celebrating achievement through stickers, rewards, star of talent, celebration book, etc
- Enabling the children to understand the difference between right and wrong.

Cultural Development

Cultural development is about pupils' understanding their own culture and other cultures in their town, region and in the country as a whole. As a school we believe in celebrating and valuing any cultural diversity and in developing an understanding and celebration of a wide range of cultures, faiths and differences.

At Meadow Lane we promote cultural development by:

- Valuing and celebrating other faiths and cultures that are represented in our school community.
- Encouraging the children to talk using vehicles such as 'show and tell' and the 'Big talk bag'.
- Developing an acceptance of similarities and differences, particularly through PSHCE and RE teaching.
- Celebrating a range of festivals throughout the year.
- Encouraging meaningful discussion with children.
- Using a wealth of stimuli and resources with the children from their own and others' culture.
- Welcoming visitors into school regularly.
- Encouraging tolerance and appreciation of the beliefs, values and customs of a variety of cultures.

British Values

The DfE have recently reinforced the need **“to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.”**

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy, and these values have been reiterated by the Prime Minister. At Meadow Lane these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy underpins a lot of the work we undertake with our children. Pupil voice is a big part of our ethos and we try to ensure that all children’s voices are heard through our School Council, Sports leaders, Playground Pals and Eco team. The children have also contributed to staff interviews and pupil questionnaires. Elections for the School Council representatives take place in each class. The School Council meets at least half termly and leads assemblies when appropriate. Children are always able to voice their opinions and we foster an environment where children are safe to disagree with each other.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of laws whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country are reinforced throughout our curriculum as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. The school’s behaviour policy has at its core the principle of making the correct choices and understanding the impact if the wrong choice is made. Visits from people such as the Police, Fire Service etc are regular parts of our calendar and help to reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty:

Within school pupils are actively encouraged to make choices knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. This is achieved through our work in PSHCE and E safety lessons. Whether it be through choice of challenge, of how they record work or of participation in our numerous extra curricular clubs and activities pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect:

Running through the heart of the school philosophy and vision is respect.. This is consistently and frequently discussed with the children through circle time, assemblies, school and class council meetings. Our behaviour policy is based around ensuring that all children respect one another and can value everyone as individuals. This is reiterated through the class and school rules.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

This is achieved through enhancing pupils’ understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them the opportunity to experience such diversity. Assemblies and discussions in class seek to deal with prejudice and prejudice based bullying and these are supported by learning in PSHCE and RE. Members of different faiths or religions are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school.

Links to other policies

- Behaviour Policy
- Single Equality Policy
- PSHCE Policy
- Racist Incident Policy
- Religious Education Policy

Staff reviewed: Feb 15

Date ratified: Feb 15

Date for review: Feb 17

Signed : Head teacher

..... Chair of SDC committee