



Thorncombe St Mary's CE VC Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

2020/2022

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**Living, Learning and Growing
Together**

Rationale

The aims and ethos of Thorncombe St Mary's CE VC Primary School underpin our thinking on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Our church schools are built on a foundation of Christian values and attitudes. This provides a safe and secure "family" environment in which each individual child is free to learn about themselves and the world they live in. The school is concerned with the whole child and believes that the curriculum should enable all children to fully develop their gifts and achieve their full potential. This is evident in the daily life of the school, in our special nature as a Church of England school, and in our role as the village community school.

It is within such a framework that we seek to foster the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils. Opportunities are offered in collective worship, RE, the wider curriculum, and through a positive response to, and contribution to the ethos of the school.

Spiritual Development

While spirituality and religion may complement each other, they are not the same. Spiritual development encourages and grows from the ability to interpret experiences in a way which may transcend the physical senses and everyday language. It is concerned with relationships, beliefs, reflection, self-knowledge and identity, feelings and emotions, creativity, and the search for meaning and purpose. It values a non-material dimension to life. It has many aspects in common with moral development.

We aim to help children towards:

- The development of personal beliefs.
- Self-awareness
- Recognising and valuing the worth of each individual (including themselves).
- An ability to express their own thoughts and feelings creatively.
- The exercise of imagination, and the experience of inspiration and insight.
- The experience of awe, wonder and mystery.
- The ability to recognise their own feelings.

Moral Development

Moral development is concerned with children's ability to make judgements about how to behave and the reasons for such behaviour. It requires knowledge and understanding, and includes questions of intention, motive and attitude. The school aims to create an ethos which reflects shared values, fosters a sense of belonging to a supportive community, and enables children to develop self-discipline and a recognition of the rights and needs of others. We aim to help children towards:

- Moral behaviour based on knowledge, choice and principles.
- An understanding of the conventions of society.
- Self-discipline.
- Accountability for their own actions.

Social Development

Social development involves children's growth in knowledge and understanding of society in all its aspects. There are a number of levels of community which our children may experience and enter during their time at school. These range from "best friend" pairing, working groups, their class, their key stage, a sports team, choir, an interest group, the whole school family, the local neighbourhood, the church family, the village and beyond. At the same time they are a member of their own family and friendship networks, and other groups outside school.

In order to benefit from and contribute to these communities children need to become active members. We aim to help children towards:

- An acceptance of the rules which govern behaviour in each situation.
- An ability to share the joys and concerns of that community.
- Setting themselves in an appropriate place within that community.
- Being open to others.
- Recognition of personal worth for themselves and others.
- Mutual respect
- A questioning, reflective and evaluative approach to experiences.
- A development of personal views and insights with a degree of self-knowledge.

Cultural Development

Cultural development is concerned with having access to a wide range of cultural interests and stimuli which encourage the development of new insights. It also involves aesthetic appreciation, and a knowledge of beliefs, values, customs and skills which form the basis of different societies.

The majority of our children share a similar cultural heritage. We aim to help the children towards:

- A knowledge and understanding of their own traditions and cultural heritage.
- A knowledge and understanding of some of the faiths, traditions and peoples in Britain as a whole.
- An awareness of the ways which cultural traditions are expressed in worship, the creative arts, traditional ways of life, etc.
- An awareness of contemporary lifestyles in other countries.
- An appreciation of the contribution of many cultures to important developments in social justice, the arts and sciences.
- A recognition of our common humanity.

The values

We accept the statement that "Personal morality combines the beliefs and values of individuals, those of social, cultural and religious groups, to which they belong, and the laws and customs of the wider society."

Our school vision is ***Living, Learning and Growing Together***. Through living, learning and growing together we nurture each individual's uniqueness and potential so that they may enjoy life in all its fullness (John 10:10) and this vision is underpinned by our core Christian values are:

- 1. Love and Compassion**
- 2. Thankfulness**
- 3. Service**
- 4. Forgiveness**
- 5. Hope**
- 6. Endurance**

Each core value is taken from a passage in the Bible. These core values underpin our expectations of staff, children and all members of the school community.

Opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The role of Thorncombe St Mary's CE VC Primary School is to create and actively maintain an appropriate school ethos. It needs to provide opportunities for development within the planned curriculum. Teachers are asked to highlight potential opportunities within their planning. The school needs to provide opportunities for development within school worship, community relations and social activities. For example, acts of collective worship, links with the church and local community groups, sports competitions, art events and our cultural links with Nepal. Children are invited to grasp these opportunities and reflect on their experiences. This means giving time for reflection.

Thorncombe St Mary's CE VC Primary School sets clear boundaries for behaviour and is consistent in its approach to the management of behaviour. The role of the adults within the school is vitally important in giving a good example to the children. All staff need to be aware of their responsibility to lead the children through encouragement and example.

