



Little Missenden CE Infant School

SMSC POLICY

AUTUMN 2023

Rationale

At Little Missenden Church of England Infant School our theologically rooted Christian vision, “Rooted and grounded in love” Ephesians 3, verse 17, is intrinsic in the life of our school, helping all in the school community to feel nurtured, to grow and flourish reaching their individual potential. Our children are encouraged to develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and to begin to make personal decisions and choices which reflect this development. Opportunities for the children to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally are provided throughout the curriculum, during learning sessions, in collective worship, at lunch time, playtime and extra-curricular activities. Our school Christian vision and values are promoted in every area of school life, providing a model of behaviour for our children.

Ethos

Little Missenden is a Church of England Infant school whose ethos is founded in our Christian Vision “Rooted and grounded in love”, and Christian teaching and values, in particular recognising the uniqueness and worth of each individual member of the school, both children and adults alike. The aim of our school is to encourage children to understand and respect the various beliefs, traditions and practices of others, both within the school and the wider community, developing a positive attitude towards themselves and others. We ensure our children know the difference between right and wrong and understand the consequences of their own actions. We encourage our children to show respect for the world they live in and deal with everyday life situations in a confident and understanding way.

Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our Christian vision and values
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues throughout the curriculum and the general life of the school
- To ensure that a pupil’s education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why
- To give pupils a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society

'Rooted and grounded in love' Ephesians 3:17
friendship, thankfulness, honesty, forgiveness, compassion and trust



- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a social and moral responsibility
- To ensure all stakeholders within our school are valued and, through our Christian vision, are nurtured, encouraged to grow and to flourish

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development involves the nurture of non-physical aspects of our children that cannot be expressed in words but with profound thoughts, feelings, experiences and emotions. It involves relationships, with God for those who believe, and with other human beings and the natural world. It recognises the universal search for personal identity, the challenges of responding to difficult experiences and the need to find meaning and purpose in life.

Moral and Social Development

Moral and Social development encourages a growing awareness that one is part of a wider society in which an individual has responsibilities towards others and may assume certain rights. It involves an understanding that obedience to laws and rules plays an important part in enabling society to function effectively for all. It encourages the acquisition of positive values and beliefs as a foundation for living and the basis for good decision making.

Cultural Development

Cultural development enhances understanding of the role of traditions, customs, religious practice and artistic expression in giving identity to groups of people. It involves exploring how these combine to create a rich diversity of experience in our community and builds increasingly harmonious relationships with others in the wider world.

Implementation of the SMSC Policy Aims

To encourage spiritual development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore the Christian faith and begin to compare with other faiths
- Develop a sense of wonder, awe, mystery and joy
- Listen, reflect and puzzle
- Examine their own feelings, likes and dislikes, and compare these with others
- Develop personal beliefs and values and respect those of others
- Develop insight into questions of life, death and change
- Respond to situations of suffering and hardship
- Express doubt, fears and pose questions
- Express feelings, responses and insights through creative media
- Reflect in quiet areas of the school
- Create time in the curriculum and in collective worship for moments of reflection

To encourage moral and social development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Develop a sense of right and wrong in a supportive environment
- Develop self-esteem and take responsibility for one's own actions
- Be aware of the needs of others and develop empathy
- Discuss the need for rules and sanctions and adherence to the school vision and values
- Understand the role of forgiveness and generosity towards others

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- Form judgements about appropriate courses of actions
- Work collaboratively in a group or team
- Celebrate personal achievement and the success of others
- Assume responsibility and develop early leadership skills and roles

To encourage cultural development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore a range of multi-cultural themes through literature, art, music, dance, religious education and worship
- Participate in visits to places of cultural interest, e.g. museums, theatre productions and places of worship
- To engage with artists, musicians, dancers, story-tellers and religious representatives who visit the school
- Perform to an audience or speak publicly in a drama production, religious festival or school worship
- To develop a knowledge of democracy and the rule of law, for example through school council elections and pupil voice
- Participate in school and community events such as the Little Missenden Music Festival, The local Flower Festival and the Village Show

Links with the Wider Community

Little Missenden Church of England Infant School has close links with the community of Little Missenden village and the wider community, very close ties to the Church and Diocese, and has a tradition of participation in the life of the local and wider community. These links foster an attitude of care and concern in pupils, who commit themselves readily to such activities as fund raising for charities, supporting PSALMS (our PTA) fundraising events, collecting harvest gifts for local elderly residents, and taking part in local festivals such as the Music Festival, the Flower Festival and the Village Show. Members of the local community are welcomed into school, for example they are invited to a special performance of our school Nativity, and are encourage to join us for coffee once a month when our local coffee van visits the school. We also join our local community for special Church services, for example, joining the congregation of our local Church, St John the Baptist, for Harvest Festival and on Mother's Day, performing a song for the congregation, and also joining with them at Christmas and Easter. Our vicar joins us at school weekly for collective worship.

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