ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL, RAMSBOTTOM

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

September 2026

Mission Statement

"There are 3 things that last: Faith, Hope and Love. Love one another as I have loved you."
Our school is proud to be part of the Roman Catholic community in the Parish of St Joseph's Ramsbottom. Our school has a distinctive character, because everything we do is based on the values of the Gospel. The purpose of our community is to recognise the worth and dignity of all and to fully develop the talents of each person."

OVERVIEW

In school we give an important place to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils. In all aspects of the school's work and life and in our curriculum, teaching and learning we seek good and appropriate opportunities for pupils grow in their spiritual awareness. We work hard to promote a good understanding of moral and ethical values to underpin our ethos and to provide foundations for good relationships within our community. As pupils grow and mature we place great importance on developing their social skills and social awareness. They learn about their own culture and about the diversity of cultures in this country and across the world.

OBJECTIVES.

1. To help all pupils increase their spiritual awareness and development by exposing them to opportunities of awe and wonder that will contribute to their spiritual growth.
2. To enable all pupils to develop good moral values and understand about the importance of truthfulness and to know the difference between right and wrong.
3. For all pupils to build an understanding of justice, fair play and honour..
4. To enable all pupils to get on well together as a school community and develop the personal and interpersonal social skills that make for harmony and empathy for others.
5. To teach children about the wider society in which they live as citizens and the rights and responsibilities that come with that.
6. To give children an understanding of the rich culture in which they live and to increase their knowledge and understanding of the wider cultures that make up our societies and the diverse world in which they live.

STRATEGIES.

1. Collective worship will be provided to enable children develop their spiritual awareness and spiritual understanding and assemblies will focus on moral, social and cultural issues..
2. Across the curriculum, teaching and learning pupils will experience awe and wonder as they have new experiences that lift their spirits.
3. Religious Education will become a stimulus and a springboard for the development of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.
4. In the teaching of English the use of stories, plays, drams and poems will make significant contributions to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
5. Art, science, mathematics, design technology, music and physical education will all be used to provide opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.
6. On every appropriate occasion teachers will use first-hand experience, visits, visitors, artefacts, AVA and the local and wider environment to provide good opportunities for pupils to experience awe and wonder.
7. In religious education, through their understanding of the different faiths and beliefs children will be encouraged to develop their feelings and 'empathy and understanding for others.
8. Through history and geography and their increasing knowledge and understanding of the world, learners will be helped to develop an understanding of the British society in which they live and its cultural diversity. They will also learn about he diversity of cultures across time and across the world..
9. Children will learn about the influence of religion, faith and belief on democracy, our government, the Monarchy, citizenship, and the Law. They will learn about rights and responsibilities, moral, spiritual, social, ethical and environmental issues.

10. Pupils will be taught how to develop the social skills that build society including how to work harmoniously with others, how to have empathy for others and how to respect the beliefs and cultures of others.
11. Across the curriculum, in teaching and learning pupils will learn how to behave, the importance of truthfulness and honesty. They will learn about the importance of kindness and care for others and of the importance of justice and fairness.
12. We will use financial resources to build up an extensive collection of resources, artefacts and books to support the teaching of spiritual, moral and social education..

OUTCOMES

The development of pupils' SMSC awareness will be core to our school's ethos. It will be established across the curriculum teaching and learning. It will have a strong visibility in the ethos, life and work of the school through pupils' behaviour, relationships, and attitudes. There will be visible evidence in displays, performances, music, drama and assemblies. Where appropriate, parents and the wider community will be encouraged to contribute to the development of SMSC education. Under the 2010 Equality Act all protected characteristics will be recognised and acceptance taught as an embedded aspect in all curriculum areas: disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

Next review date: September 2027