

*Spalding Monkshouse Primary School*  
**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Policy**



Review Date: September 2020

### **Rationale**

At Monkshouse School we recognise that spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is central to the education of all pupils and permeates the whole curriculum and ethos of the school. It is reflected in the behaviours of individuals, in their interactions and also in the provision of teaching, resources and learning environments.

We strive to create a safe, caring and happy learning environment which promotes respect, diversity and self-awareness and equips our pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they will need to succeed in their future lives.

SMSC is taught through, and reflected in, all areas of the curriculum and through all aspects of school life. Pupils are provided with the opportunities to gain in knowledge and understanding and to develop the skills they need to participate in the life of the diverse community in which they live.

### **Definitions**

**Spiritual Development** is concerned with the exploration and development of feelings and emotions; personality, individuality and uniqueness; and knowledge and understanding of their own and different beliefs and cultures.

**Moral Development** relates particularly to the understanding of right and wrong. Pupils learn to make choices in their behaviour through developing knowledge of boundaries and understanding of consequences. They learn by example and by practising through role-play, story and group activities.

**Social Development** relates to the development of knowledge and understanding and the acquisition of skills in relating to others. This begins with family and friends and extends to the wider community beyond. Pupils are taught to respect each other and to appreciate each other's similarities and differences allowing them to form successful relationships, become positive team members and participate successfully in the school community as a whole.

**Cultural Development** enables learners to develop an understanding both of their own culture and of different cultures. Explorations of values, beliefs, customs, foods, artefacts and stories enable the pupils to make comparisons and develop knowledge of lifestyles and choices of others.

### **How we make provision for the children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development across the school:**

#### **Spiritual Development**

- Children are given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of spiritual experiences such as:
- Curiosity and questions
- Awe and wonder
- Connection and belonging
- Heightened self-awareness
- Prayer and worship

- Deep feelings of what is felt to be important
- A sense of security, well-being, worth and purposefulness

Our RE programme covers a range of faiths and develops in the children respect for the practices of different faiths and an understanding of their underlying values and concerns. It also develops tolerance for the variety of beliefs and the customs of the citizens of our world. Children are given opportunities to visit places of worship and speakers visit the school.

Wider opportunities exist in the school's curriculum that enable the children to think about religion and spirituality for example through art, drama, discussion, outdoor learning, music, and Godly Play is factored in at least once, and often twice, a year for all year groups. This enables them to be reflective about their own beliefs and develops interest in, and respect for, the feelings, values and beliefs of others.

- Awe and wonder moments are built in to the beginning of new topics.
- Children have opportunities for reflection at various times of the week.
- PSHE and circle time enables children to gain an understanding of their thoughts and emotions and the likely impact on themselves and others. It develops empathy and consideration for the viewpoint of others.
- Daily assemblies are held.
- Mindfulness and Yoga sessions are conducted in school.

### **Moral development**

We support the children to;

- Distinguish right from wrong based on knowledge of the moral codes of their own and other cultures
- Develop an ability to think through the consequences of their own and others' actions and make responsible and reasoned judgements
- Have respect for others' needs, interests and feelings, as well as their own
- Develop the understanding to review and re-assess their values, codes and principles in the light of experience.

In school we provide a clear moral code as a basis for behaviour which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school. We promote equality and give pupils opportunities to explore and develop moral concepts and values.

Rights and responsibilities and codes of conduct are displayed in all classes and discussed with the children.

Our Positive Behaviour Management Policy Is consistently applied across the school.

There is a clear and consistent Reward System in place that children understand.

Stories are used and assemblies conducted about moral values and expectations.

Values certificates are presented weekly and given equal status to academic certificates in order to promote good behaviour. These are published in the school newsletter.

PHSE/SEAL programmes address rules, behaviour, friends etc.

Anti-Bullying Policies are negotiated with pupils and emphasis is placed on e-safety education.

Responsibilities are given to pupils e.g. Mini-Police, JRSOs, Peer Mediators, Playground Leaders to assist with reinforcing values and behaviours.

Children are encouraged to discuss, and develop an understanding of, consequences of their actions.

### **Social development**

Through social development the children develop skills and personal qualities necessary for individuals to live and function effectively in society. At Monkshouse we recognise that pupils who are becoming socially aware are likely to be developing the ability to:

- Adjust to a range of social contexts by appropriate and sensitive behaviour
- Relate well to others
- Work successfully as a member of a team
- Share views and opinions with others
- Resolve conflicts maturely and appropriately
- Show respect
- Exercise responsibility
- Understand how societies are organised e.g. family, school etc.
- Within school we:
  - Foster a sense of community with shared values
  - Promote equality
  - Encourage pupils to work co-operatively through paired, group and team work.
  - Help pupils to develop personal qualities valued in society.
- Provide a range of situations for pupils to mix in different groups such as house assembly, Friendly Friday, residential visits, after-school clubs, charity events etc.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to exercise leadership and responsibility such as playground leaders, house captains etc.
- Participate in fundraising events.

### **Cultural development**

Children learn about, and experience the diversity of other cultures, both within modern Britain and throughout the world. All pupils are treated equally and play an active part in the school community regardless of their colour, religion or gender.

The school facilitates this by:

- Holding celebrations and religious festivals over the year – Harvest, Divali, Easter, Chinese New Year
- Studying other religions and countries etc. and using stories from other cultures
- Holding International Days
- Encouraging pupils to think about special events in life and how they are celebrated
- Recognising and nurturing certain talents and developing cultural awareness through the art, theatre music and encouraging pupils to reflect on their significance
- Reinforcing the school's cultural links through displays etc. and developing partnerships with outside agencies
- Appointing Global Ambassadors

### **British Values**

At Monkshouse Primary School we already promote the core aspects of British values through the SMSC work that is integrated throughout every year group. We recognise that such development is most successful when those values and attitudes are promoted by all the staff and provide a model of behaviour for pupils. Through the ethos of the school and

the systems in place British values are reinforced regularly and are evidenced in the following ways:

### **Democracy**

Democracy can be seen in action at our school in many ways. We have a school council which meets regularly to discuss issues raised in class council sessions. The school council, which is elected democratically, and includes at least 1 member from each class Y1 –Y6, provides the pupils with an opportunity to raise issues, decide how money is spent, organise events and activities and put forward suggestions for curriculum ideas. Through all areas of the curriculum the pupils are taught the importance of listening to others and their viewpoints, allowing the pupils to gain a full understanding of democracy. The establishment of our school behaviour policy, rights and responsibilities, our School Values and our Vision Statement involved the collecting of ideas and suggestions which the pupils voted on. The school's House Captains, Sports Captains and Mini-Police Officers are also voted for by their peers.

Children from Y1 – Y6 meet with the Headteacher three times a year to put forward their thoughts and opinions on a range of topics relating to the school and their classes.

### **The Rule of Law**

The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school, or the country, are consistently reinforced at Monkshouse Primary School. Pupils are taught from an early age the rules and values of the school, the reasons behind rules; that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when rules are broken. Pupils are helped to learn to manage their behaviour and take responsibility for their actions. Children are involved in the establishing of the rules and the rights and responsibilities, which are reviewed annually. Visits from authorities such as the Police; Fire Service; etc. are regular parts of our calendar and help reinforce this message. We are part of the Mini Police scheme and have Junior Road Safety Officers to support the reinforcement of rules in school.

This type of environment enables pupils to feel safe and secure ( in pupil interviews children consistently state that they feel safe at school); this, in turn, promotes the optimum conditions for learning to take place.

### **Individual Liberty**

Making the right choices and being responsible for those are important principles at Monkshouse Primary School. All children receive equal opportunities and are encouraged to be independent in making the choice that is right for them. At Monkshouse Primary School, pupils are actively encouraged to make informed choices, knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school we educate and provide boundaries for young pupils to make choices safely, through provision of a safe environment and an empowering education. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and we advise how to exercise these safely, for example through our E-Safety and PSHE lessons.

We support others by participating in charitable events such as Children in Need, Macmillan Coffee mornings and providing stock for our local foodbank.

### **Mutual Respect**

Mutual respect is one of our key values and pupils have been part of discussions and assemblies related to what this means and how it is shown. This is reiterated through our classroom and learning rules, as well as our behaviour policy. Children learn that their behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of our school community treat each other with respect.

**Tolerance of those of different cultures, faiths and beliefs**

We are part of a school and local community where each person is respected and valued equally without regard to ability, gender, faith, heritage or race. We develop tolerance and broaden awareness of others through enhancing pupils' understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. RE, PSHE lessons and assemblies reinforce messages of tolerance and respect for others. Members of different faiths and religions are encouraged to share their knowledge and enhance learning at the school. We hold international days to raise awareness of different lifestyles and cultures.

All staff at Monkshouse Primary School work closely with parents, carers and other professionals to ensure that the pupils are happy, safe and reach their full potential to live fulfilled lives in the community.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of the Governing  
Body

Date: \_\_\_\_\_