



## **St Ives Primary and Nursery School SMSC Policy**

### **SMSC Statement**

Through Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education, we aim to enrich and expand the lives of our young people, while developing their values, attitudes and beliefs. We strive to inspire bright futures and minds by providing a broad and balanced curriculum, nurturing positive home, school and community relationships and promoting respect for all people and the world we live in.

### **Introduction**

We recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum. The integrity and spirituality of other people from all faith backgrounds will be respected and explored. The diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, and pupils will be given access to a range of alternative views. Adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. The school community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals. Pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others. Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. Our Golden Rights reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements in line with the school's behaviour policy. All curriculum areas seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

### **Spiritual Development**

Provision for the spiritual development of pupils includes developing their:

- Ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective
- Knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faith, feelings and values.
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them.
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning.



## **St Ives Primary and Nursery School SMSC Policy**

- Willingness to reflect on their experiences.
- Mindfulness activities and opportunities.

As a school, we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Sustain their self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop their capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings.
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life.

### **Moral development**

Provision for the moral development of pupils includes developing their:

- Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding in their own lives.
- Understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions.
- Interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

As a school, we aim to provide learning opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Take action for justice.
- Make informed and independent judgments.

### **Social Development**

Provision for the social development of pupils includes developing their:

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts
- Willingness to participate in a variety of communities, cooperating with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- Acceptance of and engagement with the fundamental British values, mutual respect of those with different faiths and beliefs.



## **St Ives Primary and Nursery School SMSC Policy**

As a school, we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Develop an 'I can do' philosophy.
- Develop understanding of children's rights.
- Make choices about social groups to be part of.
- Develop their out of school learning.

### **Cultural Development**

Provision for the cultural development of pupils includes developing their:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences.
- Understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures in the school and further afield.
- Ability to recognise and value the things we share in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socioeconomic communities.
- Willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities.
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity.

As a school, we aim to promote opportunities that will enable pupils to:

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain, and how these influence individuals and society.
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment.
- Learn an additional language in KS2 (to raise pupil aspirations and promote internationalism)

### **School Values**

Underpinning the ethos and SMSC are the St Ives school values. The staff and pupils of St Ives have worked together to create these. They have been carefully selected to meet the needs of our children and we teach, promote and embed them through our curriculum and the ethos of our school. Respect is our overarching value which runs through everything we do.



## St Ives Primary and Nursery School SMSC Policy



### British Values

At St Ives British Values are embedded in the curriculum and the ethos of school life as follows:

**Democracy** – pupils have an understanding of how citizens can influence decision making through the democratic process.

**Individual Liberty**- pupils have an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law.

**Mutual Respect and Tolerance** – pupils have an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.

**The Rule of Law** – pupils have an expectation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.

### Rights Respecting

St Ives Primary School is a Rights Respecting school. SMSC respects and incorporates children's rights including the following:

**Article 2** The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

**Article 3** The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

**Article 12** Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.

**Article 14** Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their



## **St Ives Primary and Nursery School SMSC Policy**

rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

**Article 30** Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

### **Links with the wider community**

The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil (weekly newsletter, school website, reading records, class assemblies, Christmas and Summer fairs).

Visitors are welcomed into school to enhance our curriculum and give children memorable experiences. Links with local places of worship are fostered through children visiting and visitors coming into school.

Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility to it.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

This is achieved by:

- monitoring of teaching and learning opportunities throughout curriculum areas by SLT and subject leaders.
- SMSC audits and action plans.
- good practice in SMSC being shared with staff regularly.

**Policy Date:** September 2024

**Review Date:** September 2025