

# BRAYWOOD CE FIRST SCHOOL



## SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

***“From tiny acorns, mighty oak trees grow, watered and nurtured by God”***

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children equally and as individuals.

*Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for individual pupils and it is crucial for society as a whole. Most teachers would see it as the heart of what education is all about - helping pupils grow and develop as people. This importance has repeatedly been recognised by legislators; schools are required by law to promote pupils' SMSC development and inspectors are required to inspect it.* (Ofsted)

In contrast to the policies for specific curriculum subjects, this policy relates to the whole life of the school and in particular to promoting spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) through the example set by adults in the school; the quality of all relationships and the standards of daily collective worship.

### **Legal**

The Education Reform Act (1988) requires the curriculum of a maintained school to '*promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school.*'

The connection between good results in the curriculum and high standards in SMSC development is widely acknowledged. The SMSC aspects of education concentrate on the development of the pupil as an individual and as a personality, aiming to enrich and extend the human existence of each child in relation to the values, attitudes, beliefs and consequent behaviour acquired during school years.

### **Christian Distinctiveness.**

Braywood is a Church of England Controlled School with Christian attitudes towards life. We consider it important to foster a personal, caring and happy environment.

***“trust, faith, love, self-discipline, forgiveness, determination, courage, ambition, friendship, family, respect, resilience ”***

We are committed to teaching and living the Christian way of life by providing quality education for every child and developing respect and consideration for all members of our community.

A Christian environment will enable pupils to become aware of and reflect upon their own experiences and those of others; and to discover meaning and value in such experiences which might reveal the love and presence of God.

Our aims are to enable children to develop their personal qualities and become:

- responsible for themselves, to develop a sense of consideration for others and a love of self.
- confident and competent both academically and socially;
- able to distinguish between right and wrong;
- able to articulate their own attitudes and values;
- able to understand and be sensitive to the beliefs, values and ways of life of others, responding appropriately to injustice and prejudice;
- caring, considerate and compassionate;
- skilled in working collaboratively and independently;
- able to reflect on their learning and plan for future development;
- Able to respond positively to challenges and problems.
- to help pupils to understand the world in which they live and
- to promote good relationships and respect between the home, the local community, the school and the church.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Through our broad, balanced and enriched curriculum SMSC values are taught every minute of the school day.

All staff, including Support Staff, are involved in spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. These qualities should be evident in the way that children and adults interact throughout the school, in accordance with many other existing qualities. (See Golden Rules, RE Policy, Collective Worship Policy, Curriculum and ECM, Behaviour Policy and Teaching and learning Policy)

### **Monitor and Evaluate**

All areas of SMSC are evaluated by the class teacher through the daily life of the school. At Braywood assessments are being carried out daily, by all staff as we are constantly discussing the children at our school. In a small school the pupil's progress in these areas are noticed by all staff.

A formal record of this will be found in the end of year report and in the three parent's evenings.

#### Assessment in Spiritual Development

- becoming aware of God in one's own life and in the life of others
- becoming aware of and reflecting on experience
- questioning and exploring the meaning of experience

### Assessment in Moral Development

- an understanding of moral principles which allow them to tell right from wrong?
- a respect for other people, truth, justice and property?
- an ability to stand moral ground in the face of peer pressure?

### Assessment in Social Development

- observation of pupils' growing maturity and self-esteem
- the degree to which pupils employ socially acceptable behaviour
- development of relationships in work and play
- the degree to which pupils appreciate what constitutes a healthy lifestyle

### Assessment in Cultural Development

- response to stories, videos, artefacts
- records of work, displays, photographic evidence
- increased participation in cultural activities
- attitudes expressed during cultural visits or relating to visitors

## **Responsibilities**

### **The Governing Body** is responsible for:

- ensuring that the Church Foundation of the school is honoured and that the SMSC Development Policy promotes an ethos based on Christian principles and practice.
- ensuring that the SMSC is put into practice and monitored by the appropriate governor
- engaging an appropriate inspector to carry out the Section 23 Inspection of a Church School.

**The school** is responsible for the SMSC development of the children. The RE Co-ordinator is responsible for overseeing the planning, the provision and the monitoring and evaluation of SMSC development. The co-ordinator will keep in touch with national developments and will act in an advisory capacity, supporting colleagues. Staff meetings may be used for discussion and update information.

**Susan Calvert**

