




Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Policy

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Non-Maintained School | DfE No. 936/7063

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Rationale

At Meath School, we recognise that social, moral, spiritual 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 and in their interactions and also in the provision of teaching, resources and learning environments.

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 and beyond. Pupils are taught to respect each other and to appreciate each other's similarities and differences. An awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live is also developed.

Moral development relates particularly to developing knowledge and 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 and group activities.

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.

Cultural development is concerned with encountering the defining aspects of different cultures. Explorations of values, beliefs, customs, foods, artefacts, and stories allow the pupils to make comparisons and develop knowledge of lifestyles and choices of others.

Strategies

SMSC development 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. For example:

Social

- There is a high level of staffing at mealtimes and on the playground to promote appropriate social interaction. Pupils play together in group games and imaginative play on their own and with adults. Meals are served in a family style, with an adult on each table facilitating interactions.
- The PSHE and 'journey around the world' scheme of work contains units on Health and Wellbeing, Relationships, and Living in the Wider World.

- Educational visits within the community, including swimming, sporting, dance and drama activities.

Moral

- There is an agreed celebration system in place so that all children can earn certificates and rewards for making good choices. Certificates are handed out in weekly assemblies and prizes are presented termly so that everyone shares in the success.
- The PSHE scheme of work has units dealing with issues linked with rules, negotiating difficult situations, emotions, caring for one another, making and keeping friends, living in a community.
 - 'Points of view' curriculum in upper KS2 classes encourages perspective taking and allows for the children to discuss the social and moral implications of current world and local events.
 - Rights Respecting schools award also encourages perspective of other cultures and choices and the moral implication of a person's rights or lack thereof.

Spiritual

- The RE scheme of work contains units on celebrations, festivals and worship from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Judaism.
- Children are encouraged to take part in periods of reflection at different times throughout the school week.
- Through PSHE and friends groups children are helped to gain an understanding of their feelings and emotions and their likely impact on themselves and others.

Cultural

- There are regular celebrations of religious festivals over the year including harvest, Diwali, Christmas, Easter, Eid.
- Humanities and RE have units on other cultures and religions.
- English includes units on stories from other cultures.
- All pupils are accepted equally and play an active part in the school community regardless of their colour, religion, or gender.
- Children participate in a range of artistic, sporting, and other cultural opportunities provided by the school.

Where can you find SMSC in Meath School?

- The curriculum as a whole
- The Religious Education Curriculum
- The PSHE, Rights Respecting schools award work and the Journey around the world Curriculum
- Assemblies
- RSHE Policy and curriculum / 'Friends groups' and social skills curriculum.
- Structured Celebrations system
- Extra-curricular activities
- Educational visits
- Pupil Voice (Student Council, RRS committee, Pupil Forum for residential)
- Special days (fundraising, cultural experiences, and themed days)