

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development at Eastwood Community School.



What is Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development?

Spiritual

Explore beliefs and experience; respect values; discover oneself and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

Moral

Recognise right and wrong; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

Social

Use social skills in different contexts; work well with others; resolve conflicts; understand how communities work.

Cultural

Appreciate cultural influences; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

At Eastwood Community School 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 offer an education which 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 the cultures around the world.

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this are planned in each area of the curriculum.

All adults model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families.

- The school community is a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where they value everyone's contribution to the life of the school and the wider community, both at the present time and into the future.
- Pupils learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people, and the impact their decisions can have on their futures.
- Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. Our school rules reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

All curriculum areas use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This is reflected in teacher's planning and purchasing decisions. The Dfe guidance (2014) on what schools should cover as part of their SMSC delivery is outlined below with illustrations of how this is achieved here at Eastwood.

Democracy

At Eastwood, children have many opportunities for their voices to be heard. We have a school council, a green council and a culture council which all meet regularly to discuss issues raised in class assemblies. These councils are genuinely able to effect change within school and, as much as possible, within the community. Council members are voted in each year by their class after an election process. Children also nominate class monitors, buddies and people to other appointed positions around school.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they be those that govern the class, the school or the country are consistently reinforced through regular school days, as well as when dealing with behaviour and through school assemblies. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws and rules, that they govern and protect us, and are taught the responsibilities and consequences that this involves when they are broken. Visits from authorities such as the Police, Nurses and the Fire Service and trips to their places of work reinforce this message.

Individual Liberty

Within school, pupils are actively encouraged to make choices knowing that they are in a safe and supportive environment. As a school, we educate and provide boundaries for young people to make

choices safely. Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms and are advised as to how to exercise these safely, for example through our e-safety and PHSCE/SMSC lessons. Whether it be through choice of learning challenge, of how they record, of participation in our variety of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities, pupils are given the freedom to make choices.

Mutual Respect

As one of our key values, respect is an integral part of our school. Children learn that behaviours have an effect on their own rights and those of others. All members of the school community treat each other with respect and have an awareness of the importance of this in all aspects of their lives now and in the future.

Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

Assemblies are planned regularly to address this and our RE / PHSCE lessons reinforce these key messages. Members of different faiths and cultures are encouraged to share their knowledge to enhance learning within classes and the school. Children visit places of worship and take place in activities led by various faith groups in the town.

Current affairs are regularly discussed across school, particularly in KS2, and this provides many and various opportunities to discuss people's beliefs and faiths, their actions and the impact they have. A variety of media are used, including First News (a newspaper specifically designed for school age pupils) and BBC Newsround. This timetabled session each week develops our pupil's SMSC understanding and ensures they are well prepared for their lives as active UK citizens.