



**Sacred Heart**  
Catholic Primary School

# **SMSC Development Policy**

This policy was reviewed:	Spring 2025
This policy will be reviewed again:	Spring 2027
Governor Committee Responsibility:	BAPD Committee
Statutory policy	Yes
Source:	Governing Body

## Statutory Requirement

The statutory requirement for maintained schools to promote pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is set out in Section 78 of the Education Act 2002: the curriculum for a maintained school or maintained nursery school satisfies the requirements of this section if it is a balanced and broadly based curriculum which

- a) promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- b) prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life

## Definition

At Sacred Heart School we recognise that pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides all 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.

## Principles

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is as crucial for individual pupils as it is for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about; helping pupils grow and develop as people. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is cross-curricular, promoting the aims and principles of the policies for PSHE, RE, Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities. These policies all underpin the Curriculum model as putting the child at the centre of all we do.

It is an expectation at Sacred Heart School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth of pupils.

Staff support pupils' ***spiritual*** development through:

- helping pupils to recognise and celebrate their own beliefs
- promoting respect for different people's feelings and values
- encouraging a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about ourselves, others and the world around us, including the intangible
- valuing imagination and creativity in pupils' learning
- creating opportunities for pupils to reflect on their experiences

Staff support pupils' ***moral*** development through:

- helping pupils to recognise the difference between right and wrong and encouraging them to apply this understanding in their own lives
- supporting pupils' understanding of the consequences of their actions
- developing pupils' interest in investigating, and offering reasoned views about, moral and ethical issues

Staff support pupils' ***social*** development through:

- providing different contexts in which pupils can develop a range of social skills
- encouraging pupils to cooperatively participate in a variety of social settings
- supporting pupils in resolving conflicts effectively
- encouraging pupils to take an interest in both their own and other communities
- providing opportunities through our Thrive® programme to support children with their emotional and social development

Staff support pupils' **cultural** development through:

- helping pupils to gain an understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage
- providing artistic, musical, sporting, mathematical, technological, scientific and cultural experiences in which pupils can participate and to which they can respond
- encouraging an interest in exploring, understanding, and respecting cultural diversity, as shown by their attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values as well as planned time for reflection. All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. The Sacred Heart School community will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals and where forgiveness and the opportunity to start again is fundamental to the ethos of the school.

**For further information please refer to the:**

**Religious Education Policy**

**P.S.H.E Policy**

**Relationships and Sex Education Policy**

**Safeguarding Policy**

**Equal Opportunities Policy**

**Thrive Information Leaflet**

**Relational Policy (previously the Behaviour Policy)**