

Policy for SMSC



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SMSC Policy

Introduction

At Priorslee Multi Academy Trust the children are encouraged to develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness and to begin to make personal decision and choices which reflect this development. Opportunities for the children to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally are provided throughout the curriculum, during learning sessions, in collective worship, at lunch time, playtime and extra-curricular activities.

Aims and Purpose

The Multi Academy Trust recognises the uniqueness and worth of each individual member of both schools, all children and adults alike. With this in mind the aim of the MAT is to encourage children to reflect this love by learning to understand and respect the various beliefs, traditions and practices of others, both within the MAT and wider communities. Our purpose is to ensure that all pupils leave us with a maturing understanding of the experiences and values of others and a growing sense of identity based on personal values and self-worth with the community.

General Aims

- To ensure that everyone connected with the MAT is aware of our values and principles.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues throughout the curriculum and the general life of the MAT.
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
- To give pupils a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.

□ To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.

□ To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a social and moral responsibility.

Spiritual Development

Involves the nurture of a fundamental aspect of the human condition that is not necessarily able to be expressed through the physical senses or in words. It involves relationships, with the divine for those who believe, and with other human beings and the natural world. It recognises the universal search for personal identity, the challenges of responding to difficult experiences and the need to find meaning and purpose in life.

Moral and Social Development

This encourages a growing awareness that one is part of a wider society in which an individual has responsibilities towards others and may assume certain rights. It involves an understanding that obedience to laws and rules plays an important part in enabling society to function effectively for all. It encourages the acquisition of positive values and beliefs as a foundation for living and the basis for good decision making.

Cultural Development

Helps to enhance the understanding of the role of traditions, customs, religious practice and artistic expression in giving identity to groups of people. It involves exploring how these combine to create a rich diversity of experience in our community and builds increasingly harmonious relationships with others in the wider world.

Implementation of the SMSC policy aims

To encourage spiritual development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore and begin to compare with other faiths.
- Develop a sense of wonder, awe, mystery and joy.
- Listen, reflect and puzzle.
- Examine their own feelings, likes and dislikes, and compare these with others.
- Develop personal beliefs and values and respect those of others.
- Develop insight into questions of life, death and change.
- Respond to situations of suffering and hardship.
- Express doubt, fears and pose questions.
- Express feelings, responses and insights through creative media.

To encourage moral and social development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Develop a sense of right and wrong in a supportive environment.
- Develop self-esteem and take responsibility for one's own actions.
- Be aware of the needs of others and develop empathy.
- Discuss the need for rules and sanctions and adherence to the MAT's code and values.
- Understand the role of forgiveness and generosity towards others.
- Form judgements about appropriate courses of actions.
- Work collaboratively in a group or team.
- Celebrate personal achievement and the success of others.
- Assume responsibility and develop early leadership skills and roles.

To encourage cultural development the school will provide opportunities for children to:

- Explore a range of multi-cultural themes through literature, art, music, dance, religious education and worship.
- Participate in visits to places of cultural interest, e.g. art galleries, museums, theatre productions and places of worship.
- To engage with artists, musicians, dancers, story-tellers and religious representatives who visit the MAT.
- Perform to an audience or speak publicly in a drama production, religious festival or school forum.
- Participate in MAT and community events such as fayres, fund-raising events and charitable activities.

Links with the wider community

Priorslee Multi Academy Trust has close links to the community of Priorslee and Buildwas villages and their wider catchment areas, close ties to the Church and Diocese, and has a tradition of participation in the life of the local and wider community. These links foster an attitude of care and concern in pupils, who commit themselves readily to such activities as fund raising for school's nominated charities, supporting the FOP and FOB fundraising events, collecting harvest gifts for those in need, participating in the annual service of Remembrance and the Battle of the Somme at the local war memorial for Year Six.

The MAT plays an integral part in the life and celebrations of the Village Church, the parish and the wider church and church school community. Clergy and members of the church community visit the MAT regularly to

lead and share in collective worship, take part in focussed theme days and annual celebrations and church services.

A wide range of both volunteers and professionals are welcomed into the school from parent helpers and readers, through military veterans and members of the emergency services to local magistrates and leaders of other faiths.

The Multi Academy Trust chooses to allow the local community to use its grounds and facilities outside of school hours, works closely with the pre-school on site, Priorslee and Buildwas provide access to wrap around child care, facilitates sporting days in the holidays.

Resources

The Multi Academy Trust provides a range of resources expressing the diversity of cultures in our MAT and wider community. Literacy texts, art stimuli, music, religious artefacts and the use of a foreign language reflect the MAT's aims of giving access to cultural diversity in the teaching of the curriculum. Residential trips, special focus days, educational visits and specialist visitors offer particular opportunities for the aims of SMSC aims to be pursued.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The provision of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education at Priorslee Multi Academy Trust is monitored by the SMSC subject leader in liaison with the Executive Principal and Directors.