



Staplehurst School

Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development

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Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Policy

Introduction

Staplehurst School is a community school maintained by the local authority. The School has an obligation under section 78 of the Education Act (2002) which requires schools, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the **spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils** at the school and of society; and prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

The School has a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development which includes both cross-curricular and discrete/focussed subjects such as:

- **Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship (Appendix 1)**
- **Sex & Relationship Education (Appendix 2)**
- **Drug Education (Appendix 3)**
- **Religious Education (Appendix 4) & Collective Worship (Appendix 5)**

These individual subjects are expected to comply with the whole school policy on teaching and learning and to contribute to cross-curricular work in an appropriate way. For details on the teaching of these subjects see the relevant appendices. There are also large overlaps in other curriculum subjects, such as Science, Geography and English (particularly speaking and listening).

Physical Development

The School promotes pupils' physical development through its **Physical Education Policy**.

Promoting fundamental British values

Under the [“Prevent duty”](#) Schools are required to protect children from the **risk of radicalisation**. Detailed information of the School's Prevent duty can be found in the School's **Safeguarding policy**.

DfE guidance states that:

“Schools can also build pupils' resilience to radicalisation by **promoting fundamental British values** of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and enabling them to challenge extremist views.” “Through ensuring pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, Schools can demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values.”

The DfE's [“Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools”](#) guidance states that “Actively promoting the values means challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary to fundamental British values.” The Guidance recommends that through their provision of SMSC, schools should:

- enable students to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Examples as to how this School promotes fundamental British values are detailed in **Appendix 6**.

Interrelated Policies

This SMSC policy also needs to be in line with other school policies and therefore should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Learning & Teaching Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy



- Equality Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- E-safety policy
- Educational Visits Policy

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

Teachers conduct SMSC related lessons in a sensitive manner and in confidence. It is especially important that teachers are sensitive towards an individual child's protected characteristics and those children for whom home life is not a pleasant experience or for whom the concept of the traditional family does not apply.

However, if a child makes a reference to being involved, or likely to be involved in sexual activity, then the teacher will take the matter seriously and deal with it as a matter of child protection. Teachers will respond to any 'disclosure' by a pupil by following the procedures laid down in the School's **Safeguarding policy**.

Good practice ensures that:

- teachers have a broad and detailed understanding of SMSC issues
- teachers have a clear focus for lesson planning
- teachers' pupil expectations are appropriate to their different levels of maturity and understanding
- teachers engender a climate that encourages pupils to express their views and feelings and to respect those of others
- teachers set clear boundaries for courtesy and confidentiality
- teaching methods and resources give opportunities to reflect and assimilate learning

Parents' right

Parents have the right to withdraw their child(ren) from some aspects of the SMSC curriculum; for example:

- From sex education lessons which do not form part of the National Curriculum programme of study for science.
- From the religious education curriculum
- From the daily act of collective worship.

This is made clear through the information contained in our **Curriculum Statement**. Parents who wish to consider withdrawing their child(ren) are asked to make an appointment with the Headteacher (and the subject leader). If a child is withdrawn from they are supervised by an adult and reintegrated with the class at the earliest opportunity. At the date of publication, there are no withdrawals from our SMSC programme.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring of standards of the pupils work and quality of teaching in SMSC is the responsibility of the Headteacher supported by the relevant subject leaders. This Policy will be reviewed every three years or in the light of changes to legal requirements.



Appendix 1 - PSHE and Citizenship

Introduction

Children grow up in a complex and ever faster changing world and are exposed to an increasing range of influences. The school and its curriculum aim to build on and complement the learning that has already started at home, in relation to moral values and attitudes, and awareness of society. Parents or adults who care for the children we teach are the 'first time educators' of their children, schools work in partnership with them, in developing children personally and emotionally, and as young citizens..

Aims

The skills, knowledge and attitudes developed will enable young people to lead healthy, fulfilling and meaningful lives, in which they:-

- Respect themselves as individuals, whilst developing an understanding, tolerance and respect for others and their differences, treating all people as equal and co-operating with others.
- Develop a clear set of values and attitudes, including honesty and kindness and establishing a strong moral code and keeping to it.
- Value themselves as unique human beings, capable of spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical growth and development.
- Value every child, developing their varied abilities and talents fully, setting achievable goals, learning to work and try hard and understanding both success and failure.
- Learn to live and enjoy a healthy lifestyle and keep themselves safe.
- Develop an active role as a member of a family and of the community.
- Value family, including marriage and partnership, as one of the foundations of a civilised society and a firm basis for nurturing children.
- Understand the principles of our society and democracy.
- Value their role as a contributing member of a democratic society.
- Take pride in our county and our country and in our nation's great institutions, its traditions, heritage and history.
- Respect the rule of law and encourage others to do so, taking responsibility for their actions and understanding that their actions have consequences for themselves and others.
- Respect religious and cultural diversity and develop an understanding of the beliefs and practices of major world religions and especially Christianity as the national religion and its importance in our history, culture, language and architecture.
- Respect the beauty and diversity of the environment and accept responsibility for its maintenance for future generations

Teaching and Learning Environment

Teaching strategies include:- whole school events, assemblies, school council, group work, circle time, debate, discussion, role play and the use of visitors and outside agencies.

The class teacher and other adults act as facilitators, enabling the children to learn about themselves and their interactions with others.

Where visitors are used to support, enhance and extend classroom teaching, they should always be used to complement the school's scheme of work. The teacher should always be present and retain overall responsibility in the classroom.

Pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of activities that promote active citizenship, i.e. charity fundraising, school council, eco-committee, the planning of special school events, assemblies, etc.

Pupils have the opportunity to listen to speakers, such as Police Officers, Health Workers, representatives from local churches, etc., who talk about their own roles in creating a positive and supportive local community.

We use Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) resources and half- termly themes are introduced in assemblies across the whole school. We follow the guidance in the National Curriculum 2014.



Curriculum and Planning

In Early Years PSHE and Citizenship are planned to enable children to work towards, and achieve, Early Learning Goal 06 'Self-confidence and Self-awareness', Early Learning Goal 07 'Managing Feelings and Behaviour' and Early Learning Goal 08 'Making Relationships'.

Issues raised by the School Council, parent/pupil questionnaires and Parents' Forum may be used to inform PSHE & Citizenship curriculum planning, when appropriate.

Children's Recording of their Work

The children's work will be recorded in relevant and meaningful ways. This could be through writing, drawing, display work, the use of ICT or photographs taken during the lesson.

Children are encouraged to evaluate their own and others' work in a positive and supportive environment.

Assessment and Recording

There are no statutory requirements for end of KS teacher assessments in PSHE and Citizenship at KS 1 and 2. However, teachers are required to keep records of the progress of all children and report this to parents.

Teachers assess the children's work in PSHE and citizenship by making observations and informal judgements as they observe them during lessons, gauged against the specific learning objectives set out in the National Curriculum. This assessment is not judgemental. We have clear expectations of what the pupils will know, understand and be able to do at the end of each KS, as outlined in the National Curriculum guidelines. The children are also encouraged to self-assess which offers the children the opportunity to reflect on their own progress and be responsible for their own target setting. Teachers record the achievements of pupils in PSHE and citizenship in annual reports to parents.

Children, individually and with their peers, have regular opportunities to reflect on their activities. Following an activity, children share reactions and start to make sense of the experience in relation to themselves and others. They identify what went well, what went wrong, and why. Gradually, they learn to draw conclusions about their own strengths and weaknesses and those of the group as part of self and peer assessment and target setting.



Appendix 2 – Sex & Relationship Education

Introduction

Sex & Relationships Education (SRE) is an essential and integral part of our school curriculum. We aim to help pupils learn about themselves and their relationships with others, as well as helping them prepare for adult life. We believe that effective SRE is a partnership between parents and school and we aim to work closely with parents to provide SRE as part of our school's curriculum. Some aspects are taught in Science, and others are taught as part of PSHE. We do not use sex education as a means of promoting any form of sexual orientation.

Rationale

We have based our school's sex education policy on the DfE's guidance document 'Sex & Relationship Education Guidance' (ref DfES 0016/2000) and the 'Learning & Skills Act 2000 and the additional guidance supplementary advice in 2014.

In the DfE document, sex education is defined as:

- lifelong learning about physical, moral and emotional development
- understanding the importance of marriage for family life, stable and loving relationships, respect, love and care
- the teaching of sex, sexuality and sexual health

The Learning & Skills Act 2000 states that pupils must be taught the importance of marriage for family life and bringing up children

Sex and Relationship Education (SRE):

- teaches children about the emotional, social and physical aspects of growing up and relationships. informs children about sexual issues, with regard to matters of morality and individual responsibility
- allows children to ask and explore questions

Aims and Objectives

We teach our pupils:

- about the physical development of their bodies as they grow into adults
- to understand and accept the changes that will happen to their bodies as they grow up
- to look after their bodies through exercise, diet and hygiene
- about the way humans reproduce
- the importance of sexual activity as part of a committed, long-term and loving relationship
- to understand the importance, the responsibility and value of family life
- and enable them, to act responsibly in building and maintaining positive relationships with others
- to respect the views of other people
- to increase interpersonal skills that will help to build self-esteem and decision-making skills
- to have the confidence to behave within a moral framework
- about the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

Context

We teach SRE in the context of the school's aims and values. We listen to the views of parents, pupils, Governors and staff regarding the delivery of our curriculum. We agree 'ground rules' with pupils in order to minimise any embarrassment children might feel and discourage inappropriate personal disclosures.

The Role of the Parent and the Community

- We arrange curriculum information sessions to allow parents in Years 5 and 6 to watch the video material used and to ask questions about the curriculum framework for SRE.
- We liaise closely with members of the local Health Authority to support staff, parents and pupils.

Content and Organisation

SRE has three main elements:

Attitudes and Values:



- value of family life, marriage and stable, loving relationships for the nurture of children
- learning the importance of respect, love and care
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas
- developing critical thinking as part of decision-making

Personal and Social Skills:

- managing emotions
- self respect and empathy for others
- learning to make decisions based on understanding, with an absence of prejudice
- understanding consequences of choices made
- managing conflict
- recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse

Knowledge and Understanding:

- changes in the body related to puberty, e.g. periods and voice-breaking
- when these changes are likely to happen and what issues may cause young people anxiety and how they can deal with these
- how a baby is conceived and born

The SRE programme of study followed is "The Christopher Winter Project - Teaching SRE with Confidence in Primary Schools"

Topic	Taught to	Lessons
Our Lives	EYFS	Dressing and Undressing, Hygiene, Families
Growing And Caring for Ourselves	Year 1	Keeping clean, Growing and changing, Families
Differences	Year 2	Differences: boys and girls, Differences: male and female, Naming body parts
Valuing Differences and Keeping Safe	Year 3	Differences: Male and Female, Personal Space, Family Differences
Growing Up	Year 4	Growing and Changing, What is puberty? Puberty, Changes and Reproduction
Puberty	Year 5	Talking about puberty, Male and Female Changes, Puberty and Hygiene
Puberty, Relationship and Reproduction	Year 6	Puberty and Reproduction, Understanding Relationships, Conception and Pregnancy, Communicating in Relationships



Appendix 3 – Drug Education

Introduction

Drug and drug education in the context of this document are inclusive terms including tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, medicines and other substances such as solvents.

A teacher of drug education does not need to be an authority on drugs, as it is the life skills approach which is crucial to this area of learning.

Successful drug education should start early; the key to which is developing pupils/students' life skills.

Staplehurst School is a Community School. Staplehurst School is situated in a large village environment. The population has a low number of ethnic minority residents and most families are homeowners. As with many similar communities there is evidence of drug taking amongst the youth of the community and amongst some adults. The school's policy is to promote awareness amongst pupils and adults, of the dangers of substance misuse and addiction and to offer information and advice which will allow them to make appropriate lifestyle choices.

In-line with government guidelines, our school is a smoke free environment, which includes all buildings and school grounds/playing fields etc. Parent/carers, visitors and staff members are asked not to smoke on school premises or in the presence of pupils. This applies to off-site visits. In the interest of hygiene/cleanliness, we also ask that people refrain from smoking outside the school gates. The policy and procedures apply to all adults working at and for the school.

Principles

In keeping with the aims of the school:

- Staplehurst School is committed to the health and safety of all its members and believes that it has a duty to support and safeguard the well-being of all its pupils/students and staff. The school is committed to the principles of the National Healthy Schools Standard.
- Effective drug education is an essential contributor to ensuring that all children and young people are able to reach their full potential.
- The school values the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupils/students, and through the general ethos of the school, we seek to encourage and develop young people's learning and ensure support, appropriate to their needs, is provided.
- Education about drugs is not concerned merely with substance, but with people in their social settings and therefore should involve the development of attitudes, values and the development of skills, as much as the acquisition of appropriate knowledge.
- Parents are encouraged to be proactive in supporting the school's policy and will be offered periodic presentations from suitable external agencies. They will be referred to the www.dfes.gov.uk/parents website.
- Drug issues and concerns extend across socio-economic and ethnic boundaries, and pupils/students of all ages and abilities will encounter both the positive and negative effects of drugs, as used legally in medicine to aid recovery, or illegal use. Many pupils/students have some knowledge about illegal drugs through the media, "street talk", and personal experience.
- The school welcomes and encourages parent/carer and community involvement in the development of school policy and curriculum delivery.

Aims of Drug Education

- To provide a safe, healthy environment in which pupils/students and staff can learn and develop.
- To ensure all members of the school community know and understand the rules of the school, the expectations about their behaviour, and the policy regarding drug incidents and concerns about individuals
- To promote clarity about the management of drug related incidents in the school.
- To encourage and enable pupils/students to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now, and in the future.
- To enable pupils/students to make reasoned, informed choices.
- To minimise pupils/students experimentation with illegal or harm causing substances.
- To address and take account of local community needs, including the differences and diversity within the school community.



- To support and engage parents/carers and pupils/students in their own personal learning and responsibilities.
- To enable young people and staff to access support structures (including the voluntary sector), e.g. Connexions Service, counselling, and treatment.
- To monitor, evaluate and review learning outcomes for pupils/students.
- To work with KCC and outside agencies, including the voluntary sector, to secure and support a balanced delivery of a drugs education programme, e.g. Community Drug Education Co-ordinators, Kent Advisory Service, other schools, Healthy Schools Schemes, Health Promotion, Primary Health Care professionals, Community Police, Youth and Community and Kent Safe Schools.

Objectives for Drug Education

- To provide opportunities for pupils/students to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs.
- To develop and equip pupils/students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others.
- To build pupils/students' decision-making skills and increased self esteem.
- To engage parents/carers in the school community and learning process.
- To enable pupils/students and staff to access support if they have concerns about their own or others' drug use.

Principles of Teaching and Learning

In addition to Science, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship provide opportunities for drug education. PSHE is described as a framework that is non-statutory. At Key Stages 1 & 2 Citizenship is included in the framework.

This includes

Key Stage	Learning Objective	Learning Outcome
1	To know the dangers from household substances, if they are not used as instructed	I can identify different household substances and know that if they are not used properly, they can be dangerous
2	To know that there are different names given to drugs	I know the scientific names for drugs and that they also have other, common names

Attitudes, Values and Skills

Pupils/students are taught:

- To value and trust in their own learning through positive reflections and development of assertiveness and coping skills.
- Confidence building and communication skills.
- About themselves and their achievements, seeing their mistakes, making positive changes and setting personal goals.
- To recognise risky behaviour and risk taking within different situations and be able to respond appropriately.
- That pressure to behave inappropriately or to take risks can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, TV and the media.
- How to seek/ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting peer or unwanted pressure in order to minimise harm to themselves or others.
- That their actions affect themselves and others, to respect and care about other people's feelings, trying to see things from their point of view.
- That communication and problem solving skills are central to bringing about a positive change in attitudes and actions.

In teaching drug education, teachers use a range of teaching strategies, including role-play, discussion group work, drawing and writing, debating, and circle time. The use of circle time is a key strategy for developing life skills.



Use of visitors in Drug Education

Drugs Education is a shared responsibility and schools need not be alone in providing effective and relevant drugs education for young people. Visitors and staff from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies can support and enhance drug education programmes in schools when part of a PSHE programme. However, they should not be used to abdicate the responsibility of the school, and be relied upon solely to deliver drugs education. The use of visitors needs to be part of a planned, coherent and integrated approach. The checklist below will assist the school in developing a partnership approach to drugs education delivery and support for young people.

Before involving a visitor it is useful to consider the following:

- Consistency with school's ethos, values, drug policy and approach to drugs education.
- The most appropriate source of information/support – why do you want the agency's involvement?
- What is the visitor expected to do ?
- What will the teacher's contribution to the session be ?
- Is it clear to the visitor that the teacher will remain in the classroom ?
- What preparation will be necessary, i.e. classroom layout, size of groups, content of session, A/V equipment etc. ?
- Has the visitor been checked with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)? Child protection implications.
- Have confidentiality issues been clarified, avoiding inappropriate disclosures?
- How will the session be followed up?
- How will the input be evaluated?
- Is parental consent required?

(This is not a comprehensive list. Further guidelines can be found in the TACADE publication: 'Making the most of visitors – using outside agencies in school drug education.') The KCC Community Drugs Education Co-ordinators will be able to provide support and guidance in selecting school visitors.



Appendix 4 – Religious Education

Legal Requirements

The National Curriculum recognises Religious Education (RE) as a 'core' subject required for all pupils. Religious Education at Staplehurst School is provided in line with and meets statutory requirements, which are that:

- the curriculum for every maintained school shall comprise a basic curriculum which includes provision for religious education for all pupils registered at the school.
- the religious education programme must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- the religious education provided shall be in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus for Kent.

Aims

Within the framework of statutory requirements and those of the locally agreed syllabus, our aims in RE are:

- to enable each pupil to explore our shared human experience and the questions of meaning and purpose which arise from our experiences.
- to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion through exploration of the beliefs and practices of the principal world faiths represented in Kent and Great Britain.
- to affirm each pupil in her/his own family tradition, religious or non-faith, and through that to promote awareness, respect and sensitivity for the traditions of other people.
- to provide opportunities for the cultivation of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- to support pupils in reflecting and thinking about fundamental human beliefs and values so that they develop a personal framework by which they can live

Context, Organisation and Planning

School Context

Staplehurst School serves children between the ages of 4 and 11 within the Maidstone area of Kent.

We work to the Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE and recognise the variety of religious and non-religious families from which our pupils come. We welcome and celebrate this diversity, are sensitive to the home background of each child and work to ensure that all pupils feel and are included in our RE programme. We are pleased to have the support of members of all local faith communities (All Saints Church of England church, the United Reformed Church and Staplehurst Free Church). We enjoy good relationships with them and encourage them to make positive contributions to the school and RE when appropriate. We recognise the importance of pupils' all-round personal development and the leading role that RE plays in contributing to the spiritual, moral social and cultural elements in particular. We affirm the equality of importance of the twin aims of RE as expressed in the agreed syllabus and teach to these in a balanced way, ensuring that the 'affective' dimension of RE is addressed.

School specific information

A detailed scheme of work, based on the agreed syllabus and supplemented by the QCA National Framework and guidance for RE (2004), is available for teachers and for scrutiny by interested parties.

The programme of study for Early Years (EY) children is in line with Early Learning Goals and consistent with the KS 1 Religious Education curriculum. It is based on religious material and experiences which most children encounter as they begin school. Its inclusion in the curriculum helps them make sense of their environment.

The Kent Agreed Syllabus recommends the equivalent of 30 minutes per week of Religious Education for EY. In EY children begin to explore the world of religion in terms of:- special people, special books, special times, special places, special objects and by visiting places of worship

Children listen to and talk about religious stories and are introduced to specialist words and use their senses in exploring religious beliefs, practices and forms of expression. They reflect on their own feelings and experiences. They use their imagination and curiosity to develop their appreciation of, and wonder at, the world in which they live.

In KS 1, Christianity and Hinduism are the major religions studied with some aspects of Judaism also covered. At KS 2 pupils learn about Christianity throughout the KS and in years 3, 4 and 5 also have the opportunity to study two other world faiths in depth; Judaism and Islam. In the final two terms of Year 6 a transition unit on Sikhism is taught which will be continued in Year 7.



Time allocation follows the recommendations of the Agreed Syllabus and the QCA National Framework guidance, both of which recommend a minimum of 36 hours for RE at KS 1 and a minimum of 45 hours at KS 2.

Our policy and practice is to use a breadth and variety of teaching and learning styles in RE to engage pupils positively and actively with the subject content. Thus we aim to increase the use of, for example, art, drama, ICT, speaking and listening activities, audio-visual materials, posters, photographs, display work and visitors/visits to/from faith communities.

The agreed syllabus provides descriptions of levels of attainment which are used to assess pupils' standards and monitor their progress. We report on pupils' progress and attainment in RE to parents at the end of each key stage as required by law and reporting is based on these level descriptors. We undertake to make individual and accurate comments on each pupil's progress in RE to parents, based on regular monitoring of work using the level descriptors within the Agreed Syllabus.

This information will transfer with pupils to their new school(s) when they leave.

Portfolios of pupils' work designed to help teachers make judgements about achievement; attainment and progress over time are kept and will be available to interested parties. Teachers will add examples of assessments and pupils' work to the portfolio to show clear evidence of progress and achievement. This approach supports exemplification of standards in RE and clarifies our understanding of what makes for quality learning in the subject.

Children's Recording of Their Work

In the EY and KS 1 children undertake a variety of practical activities which class teachers and teaching assistants endeavor to photograph. This will lead to displays and posters around the room and school. Coordinators will endeavor to photograph these and put copies in the RE portfolio.

In KS 2 as well as displays, recording is undertaken in RE folders, topic books and in literacy books as part of cross-curricular work.

Resources

Resources many of which are new, are stored in colour co-ordinated boxes: yellow for Christianity, purple for Judaism, red for Hinduism, blue for Islam and orange for Sikhism. The resources include posters, books, 'big books', artefacts, DVDs and videos, CDs, photo-copiable activities and teachers' books. Each teacher is provided with an R.E. file which includes long term plans, 'I can' statements for use in assessment, a list of useful websites and a glossary of religious vocabulary.

Assessment, Record Keeping, Marking and Target Setting

Summative and formative assessment for learning focuses on The Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Teachers refer to The Kent Agreed Syllabus for RE at EY, KS 1 and 2.

In lessons teachers assess progress towards the learning objectives they have set pupils and shared with them, and use their judgements to adjust future work or set targets.

Children are encouraged to assess their own progress towards the learning objective by setting success criteria with the class at the start of each lesson, and looking back at those success criteria at the end of the lesson.



Appendix 5 - Collective Worship

Introduction

The daily act of collective worship at school plays a central role in our life and work. It provides us with valuable opportunities to reaffirm our values and ethos. It offers important opportunities to strengthen our sense of community, belonging and inclusiveness and to reinforce the respect and care we have for each other. Through collective worship we make a significant contribution to the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of those present. We want all our children/young people to 'enjoy and achieve' and collective worship provides a valuable vehicle for this.

Aims

At Staplehurst School we aim:

- to provide pupils/students with a range of opportunities to worship God (however defined or understood);
- to give pupils/students opportunities to reflect on the significance of Christian (and other faith traditions') stories, events and festivals and how these might affect their lives;
- to offer experiences and opportunities for pupils/students to join in with and respond to a variety of forms of collective worship in order for them to reflect on the significance of their own and others' beliefs;
- to promote our shared values and contribute to our common life together by celebrating individual achievement, school achievement and wider community achievement within the context of collective worship.

These aims mean that our collective worship programme is such that we can include all our school community.

Collective worship and the law:

We comply with legal requirements by providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils/students on the school roll, unless they have been withdrawn by their parent(s) 'on grounds of conscience'. Teachers also have the right not to attend or lead an act of collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. The majority of our acts of collective worship are 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character' whilst recognising the religious, spiritual, moral, social and cultural insights provided by other principal religions and life-stances represented in Kent and in Great Britain.

Collective worship and parents:

When a class or year group is involved in leading collective worship, parents are invited to attend. We emphasise the importance of our collective worship programme in developing our school's ethos and values and in providing a range of opportunities for children/young people to consider important issues for life and living.

Collective worship and staff:

Teachers (and sometimes teaching assistants/supervisors) attend collective worship with their class. Pupils and staff organise and lead the fortnightly class-based act of collective worship. Resources are provided to help with this. These expectations are explained to all prospective staff at interview. However, if an individual teacher feels their own beliefs might be compromised by our programme of collective worship they can discuss this with the headteacher (and subject leader), since they do have the legal right not to attend collective worship 'on grounds of conscience'. At the date of publication, none of our teaching staff have elected to withdraw.

Collective worship planning group:

This group meets three times per year. The group consists of the subject leader and two regular visitors, who attend the school for collective worship (currently both Christian clergy). The group works with the subject leader to plan, oversee and monitor the programme and to consider how to continue to improve the experiences and opportunities we provide for our pupils/students through collective worship.

Collective worship organisation:

We hold acts of collective worship nine out of every ten days. Once a fortnight class-based acts of collective worship are held. We organise the programme around six themes (one for each term) and materials/suggestions are provided to support staff and pupils/students as they lead collective worship. It is the responsibility of staff



leading the act of collective worship to ensure that the content and form of delivery is accessible for all those present.

Collective worship leaders need to ensure that over time the following opportunities are provided:

- Use of the Bible and other sacred texts as a source for stories and teachings, emphasising common themes and ensuring the inclusiveness of the school community is reinforced. Moral tales/teachings and contemporary situations may also be drawn on where appropriate;
- Marking of appropriate festivals and other significant days;
- Opportunity for Christian children to pray 'the Lord's prayer' as an important traditional Christian prayer periodically and that others listen to it respectfully.
- Whole school/key stage acts of collective worship:

We aim to create an atmosphere of stillness and calm. To aid this, appropriate music is played for entry and exit from the hall. If someone leading collective worship wants a particular piece of music then that can usually be arranged through the subject leader;

The usual format consists of an input from the leader, an appropriate hymn or song, followed by a time of prayer and/or quiet reflection. Leaders are encouraged to actively engage pupils/students through for example questioning and drama;

The act of collective worship is kept separate from any notices or other items which may be included in this assembly time, with a different person leading each section;

Visitors may be invited from time to time to lead one of our whole school acts of collective worship;

The assembly, including the act of collective worship, usually takes 20 minutes altogether.

Class-based acts of collective worship:

We aim to give our children/young people some 'space' to be quiet and to think reflectively during collective worship in their classroom.

These acts of collective worship may be led by the class teacher or by one or more of the pupils/students. They usually take between 5 to 10 minutes once a fortnight during PSHE lessons.

Use of Visitors

The subject leader is responsible for liaising with any visitors who come into school to lead collective worship. Practical arrangements such as timing, age range of audience and appropriate content are agreed through discussion. By drawing on people from the local community to lead acts of collective worship we enhance community cohesion.

Health, Safety and Well-being

In collective worship we follow the school's Health & Safety Policy. For example, appropriate care must be taken when using lighted candles and electrical equipment. In line with our 'e-safety' policy any internet resources used must be checked by the leader prior to their use in act of collective worship. In the event of fire all pupils must be familiar with exit routes from the halls and other areas of the school where collective worship takes place. Visitors are not left unaccompanied with children/young people.

Equality

Collective worship will challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, ethnicity, religion gender and other protected characteristics. During collective worship, religions will be presented fairly and accurately and diversity, inclusion and equality will be affirmed.

Resources

A range of resources, including age-appropriate DVD material and PowerPoints, is available to support teachers and pupils with collective worship and is situated in the staff room. An annual allocation, managed by the subject leader, is available to purchase resources and for training purposes.



Appendix 6 - Promoting British values in this school

Here are some examples of how we promote British Values within our pupil's school experiences

Democracy

Democracy plays a key role within the day to day life of our school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through our proactive School Council, through Pupil questionnaires and through talking to school Governors at Governor Days.

Elections are held for positions of responsibility and opportunities such as choosing House/Vice Captains and the School Council.

The pupils have contributed to the development of the village Neighbourhood Plan which is subject to a local referendum and we held a mock Brexit election during the lead up to the National referendum. We encourage visits from our local Member of Parliament and other elected individuals.

The Rule of Law

The importance of laws, whether they are those that govern the class, the school or the country, are reinforced during the school day through the school's **Behaviour & Discipline policy**.

Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the responsibilities that this involves and the consequences when laws are broken.

We encourage visits from community authority figures such as the Local Police who all help to reinforce this message.

Personal Responsibility and 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 pupils to make choices safely, through the provision of a safe environment and empowering education. Whether it is through choice of reading book, school dinners or packed lunch, or whether to participate in our numerous extra-curricular clubs; pupils are given the freedom to make many everyday choices.

Pupils are encouraged to know, understand and exercise their rights and personal freedoms as well as teaching them that how they act can impact positively and negatively on others. They are advised on how to exercise these freedoms safely, through our **PSHE Curriculum** (see Appendix 1).

Mutual Respect

Respect for each other, for our school and to others in our community is an integral part of our school ethos and **Behaviour & Discipline Policy**. Pupils see staff model this by treating each other with respect and courtesy and we promote this in the way our children interact with each other in their classes and during social times.

Rewards are given to children who role model high standards of good citizenship. Mutual respect and fair play is also discussed within sports based activities such as matches and tournaments we play out of school.

Tolerance of those of different Faiths and Beliefs

This is achieved through enhancing pupils understanding of their place in a culturally diverse society and by giving them opportunities to experience such diversity. Opportunities to share and discuss this message occur through the Religious Education curriculum and discussions involving prejudices and prejudice-based bullying have been promoted through the **PSHE Curriculum** (see Appendix 1).

We encourage visits from representatives from different faith leaders and a visit the local mosque is included in the KS2 curriculum.