

# **Gawthorpe Community Academy**

## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy**

**Dated: June 2021**

**Date for Review: June 2023**

This policy has been written in accordance with:

1. Education Reform Act 1988. The Act began as follows:-

*'The curriculum for a maintained school (must be) 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 such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.'*

2. Staff governor discussion about 'a values curriculum'.

3. Promoting British Values - OFSTED Guidance November 2014.

4. Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools

We understand our statutory duty to encourage pupils' SMSC development including how section 78 of the Education act 2002 is met through SMSC provision. We aim to prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Although planning guidelines are set out, spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects are at the heart of daily life at our academy. Through ensuring SMSC is at the heart of the school we can also actively promote fundamental British values, and our values based curriculum.

High standards of behaviour and attitude are expected from both pupils, staff and parents/ carers who are part of Gawthorpe Community Academy.

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 aim to provide an education that 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 other cultures. This also draws from the advice from the DFE that British values should be taught through SMSC.

The academy 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 academy.

All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. This will be reflected in teacher's planning and purchasing decisions, including where British values are specifically promoted within a topic and the delivery of Picture News.

### **General Aims**

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles. This includes where and how British values are promoted.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC issues through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- 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, including being able to distinguish right from wrong and to respect civil and criminal law of England.
- To give each pupil 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 respect and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- To give pupils the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society.
- Children should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone.

## **Social Development**

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, school, the local, wider and global community. Within this there should be a balance of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group of society along with the demands, obligations and cooperation such membership requires.

We aim to develop children's social development by providing opportunities to: ■

Relate positively to others.

- Participate fully and take responsibility in class and school.
- Use appropriate behaviour across a range of situations.
- Work cooperatively with others.
- Use own initiative responsibly.
- Understand our place in our family, school and society.

Children are encouraged to:

- Share emotions such as love, joy, hope, anguish, fear and reverence.
- Be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.
- Work as part of a group.
- Interact positively across a range of situations, e.g. clubs, sports activities, visits, church services, music festivals etc.
- Develop an understanding of citizenship and to experience being a part of a caring community.
- Care and have consideration for others e.g. sharing and turn taking.
- Realise that every individual can do something well and have something to offer.
- Have good manners and show courteous behaviour

## **Cultural Development**

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others, in their own community, Britain and around the world.

We aim to ensure that the children have an increasing awareness:

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background.
- To respond to cultural events.
- To share different cultural experiences.
- To respect different cultural traditions.
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition.
- To develop a balanced approach to retaining the traditions of our Christian society, whilst perceiving in a positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present.

This is developed through:

- An awareness, recognition and appreciation of the Arts, i.e. Music, Art, Drama, Literature etc.
- A love for learning.
- An understanding of different cultures and beliefs, including Christianity.

## **Spiritual Development**

This relates to the quest for individuals identity and the search for meaning and purpose in our existence. It leads towards the understanding of self and others. It has to do with feelings, emotions, attitudes and beliefs. It is not linked solely to a particular doctrine or faith and spiritual development is therefore accessible to everyone.

It is our aim that the children have:

- The ability to listen and be still.
- The ability to reflect.
- The ability to sense wonder and mystery in the world.
- The ability to sense the special nature of human relationships.

This is developed through providing opportunities:

- In assembly time to reflect.
- In circle time.
- Provide learning opportunities which value children's questions, encourage deeper questioning and give space for their own thoughts and ideas.

## **Moral Development**

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At Gawthorpe Community Academy we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour.

We aim to ensure that the children have a growing ability:

- To understand the principles lying behind decisions and actions.
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong.
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions.
- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions.

We encourage the children to:

- Tell the truth. We use restorative practice principles to support this.
- Respect the right and property of others.
- To take part in fundraising activities.
- Be considerate to others.
- Take responsibility of own actions.
- Exercise self-discipline.
- Develop high expectations and a positive attitude.
- Conform to rules for safety, learning and respect in order to promote order for the good of all.
- Abide by "fair play" – being a good winner and loser in games and life, through intra and inter sports.
- Resist peer pressure.
- Challenge behaviour which does not reflect the code of conduct.

## **Teaching and Organisation**

Development in SMSC will take place across all curriculum areas, within activities that encourage pupils to recognise the spiritual dimension of their learning, reflect on the significance of what they are learning, and to recognise any challenges that there may be to their own attitude and lifestyle. Staff will inspire children through the enthusiasm for and modelling of learning.

Staff at Gawthorpe Community Academy will support SMSC development through the teaching and modelling of its core values, as decided by the school community. The values-based curriculum and Picture News delivered will allow opportunities for pupils to understand the links between values and SMSC. Staff will make links to SMSC development within values lessons as well as being explicit in their teaching of SMSC development.

The schools learning mentor will also implicitly teach and guide identified pupils to develop their sense of self and therefore their place in the community. The learning mentor will support children to develop socially and encourage understanding across cultural divides.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Personal development is also enriched through a wide-range of extra-curricular activities (sport, Music and Choir, Art Club) which provide opportunities for SMSC and for inspiring children to broaden their experience and horizons.

## **Community Links**

Visitors are welcomed into school, in line with the academies policy. The development of a strong home-school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents/carers, teachers and the wider community to work in an effective partnership to make sure we give our children the best possible environment in which to develop.

By its very nature, spiritual, moral, social and cultural education (SMSC) has direct links with the wider community. Parents, members and organisations of the local and wider community will be used to help pupils develop respect and understanding of other cultures, of the environment and other groups of people. The children will have opportunities to visit local places of interest and visitors into school will broaden and enrich their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the world around them and give them a deeper understanding of their place within their society. We will actively seek to give our children more opportunities to interact with other children in other schools/ academies.

Although we have separated the elements of SMSC for the purpose of understanding, there is much overlap between them.

## **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The academy will review this policy in June 2023 and assess its implementation and effectiveness.