

# Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Development Policy

Thoresby Vale Primary Academy

September 2025

## **Aim**

At Thoresby Vale Primary, we recognise that the personal development of our children, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We aim to deliver an education which inspires and empowers our children to be confident and independent, with the right positive mindset and knowledge to thrive. We want our children to see themselves as respectful, global citizens of the world with a strong sense of self, how they are going to make a difference in the world and a strong appreciation of the natural world.

## **What is spiritual, moral, social and cultural development?**

### **Spiritual Development**

Our children's spiritual development is shown by their:

- ability to be reflective about their own beliefs and perspective on life
- knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values
- sense of enjoyment, fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them
- use of imagination and creativity
- willingness to reflect on their experiences

### **Moral Development**

Our children's moral development is shown by their:

- ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to apply this in their own lives
- understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions
- interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues

## **Social Development**

Our children's social development is shown by their:

- use of social skills in different contexts
- willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British values
- ability to demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

## **Cultural Development**

Our children's cultural development is shown by their:

- understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures in the school, within their own heritage and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain
- ability to recognise, and value, the things we share across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities
- knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system
- willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities
- exploring, understanding and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity, different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities

## **How is SMSC taught at Thoresby Vale?**

Our PSHE, RE and assembly curriculum provide the most explicit opportunities for the teaching of SMSC. Our Natural Curriculum and Healthy Habits also provide teaching opportunities and experiences to support the development of SMSC.

## **Spiritual Development**

Children are given opportunities to reflect upon the meaning of spiritual experiences.

Examples of experiences commonly regarded as spiritual include:

- Curiosity, mystery, awe and wonder
- Connection and belonging
- Heightened self-awareness
- Deep feelings of what is felt to be ultimately important
- A sense of security, well-being, worth and purposefulness

Our natural curriculum provides opportunity for the appreciation of the awe and wonder of the natural world. Our Healthy Habits – Find joy and Build connection – also provide opportunities beyond our national curriculum offer to develop our children's spirituality.

As part of our pupil's spiritual development, a regular act of reflection in the form of an assembly or class discussion will take place.

## **Moral Development**

We support our children's moral development by:

- Providing a clear moral code as a basis for behaviour through our Healthy Habits, which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school.
- Promoting racial, religious and other forms of equality.
- Giving our children opportunities across the curriculum to explore and develop moral concepts and values – for example, personal rights and responsibilities, truth, justice, equality of opportunity, right and wrong.
- Developing an open and safe learning environment in which children can express their views and practice moral decision making.
- Rewarding expressions of moral insights and good behaviour
- Recognising and respecting the codes and morals of the different cultures represented in the school and wider community.
- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their actions, for example, taking care of the environment
- Using relational and restorative approaches to the management of behaviour

## **Social Development**

We support our children's social development by:

- Identifying key values and principles on which school and community life is based (Our Healthy Habits)
- Fostering a sense of community, with common, inclusive values.
- Promoting racial, religious and other forms of equality.

- Encouraging children to work co-operatively.
- Encouraging children to recognise and respect social differences and similarities.
- Providing positive experiences to reinforce our Healthy Habits as a school community – Thoresby 30
- Helping children develop personal qualities which are valued in a civilised society, for example, thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, interdependence, self-respect and an awareness of others' needs.
- Providing opportunities for engaging in the democratic process and participating in community life.
- Providing opportunities for children to 'be a leader' and 'take responsibility'
- Providing positive and effective links with the world of work and the wider community.

### **Cultural Development**

Our children are taught about the diversity of other cultures both within modern Britain and throughout the world through our curriculum, from studies of countries in geography, music styles in music, art from different cultures and the texts read.

We support our children's cultural development by:

- Extending children's knowledge and use of cultural imagery and language.
- Encouraging them to think about special events in life and how they are celebrated.
- Recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents
- Providing opportunities for pupils to participate in literature, drama, music, art, crafts, and other cultural events and encouraging children to reflect on their significance.
- Reinforcing the school's cultural links as developing partnerships with outside agencies and individuals to extend pupils' cultural awareness, for example, visits to places of worship.

The key features of SMSC at Thoresby Vale are also to be found in the wider experiences we provide such as charity support, competitions, themed days/weeks, our enrichment offer, religious festivals, celebrations, and our Junior Leadership Team.

### **Pupil Voice**

The term 'Pupil Voice' describes how our children give their input to what happens within the school and classroom. Our desire is for our children to know that they can 'be a leader' and their expertise, opinions and ideas are valued in all aspects of school life. Pupil voice permeates all levels of our work, from children participating in small group classroom conversations to children establishing procedures, running our school gardens, organising events and contributing to the overarching ethos of the school.