

Church of England and Methodist Schools
Diocese of Blackburn and North Lancashire Methodist District

Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development Policy Guidance
A Christian Perspective

(A Suggested Structure for Church Schools)

1. Mission Statement

As with all policies, this one ought to start with your mission statement

2. Vision

Our Church School will respect each child as a unique being, a child of God, loved and accepted in an ethos that encourages and celebrates difference. We will endeavour to afford sustainable opportunities for holistic academic and personal development with a life and moral code based on Christian values and teaching. There are opportunities for spiritual growth and the development of a life of faith.

Authority for Christian personal development and living is built upon the foundational teaching of the Bible, reason, Christian tradition and experience. The school will accept and promote a set of values and beliefs based on Christian authority. In obeying Jesus' command 'love God and love your neighbour as yourself' we will offer a way of life that acknowledges the integrity of the person, who may or may not accept these values and beliefs. Relationships in the Church School are based on the Christian principle that all should be loved and accepted as they are – and as they could be with God's and our community's help.

Our School will work with the Church, other partners and agencies to promote holistic personal development, based on the example of the life and teaching of Jesus.

It is about:

- children developing lives that reflect Christian values and teaching as we nurture personal faith and spiritual growth
- enabling children to love their neighbours as themselves
- encouraging children to develop an awareness that as members of a Christian family they have shared responsibilities and are able to make valuable contributions to the lives of others
- children knowing they are accepted as they are, are of equal worth and unique in the sight of God

3. Promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in a Church of England School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in a Church School is distinctive because the three persons of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit are inextricably woven throughout the whole curriculum and especially in the areas of SMSC

The Religious Education curriculum and worship in a Church School should be the place where this excellence and distinctiveness is reflected most clearly

Spiritual development

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful.” Ps 139 v 13-14

Spiritual Development in a Church School can enrich and encourage the child’s journey towards a discovery and deeper understanding of our ‘in most being’, God our creator and the wonder of the environment around them.

This is promoted through:

- exploring their relationship with God and the sense that they are his children, unique and loved by him
- exploring and experiencing prayer and worship from a variety of Christian traditions
- giving thanks to God for all aspects of school life
- discussing and reflecting upon key questions of meaning and truth such as the existence of God, the origins and purpose of the universe, good and evil, life after death
- considering the value of human beings and their relationship with God, with one another and with the natural world
- discovering how the creative and expressive arts enable spiritual development
- opportunities to discuss feelings and emotions openly
- recognising and encouraging the use of personal and group gifts and talents
- opportunities to develop their gift of imagination and creativity
- encouraging curiosity and questioning so that their own views and ideas on religious and spiritual issues can be developed within a secure environment where faith is valued
- developing a sense of personal significance and belonging
- encountering Christian fellowship

Moral development

“Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began teaching them,” Mt 5 v 1

Moral development in a Church School should allow pupils opportunities to explore issues from a wide range of view points but underpinning all investigation, discussion, reflection and evaluation are the teachings of Jesus Christ, offering pupils a foundation stone on which to build their lives. The voice of Christianity should be heard clearly throughout.

This is promoted through:

- developing a sense of right and wrong based on the teaching of Jesus Christ and Christian rules for living
- discovering and living by the values identified within the Bible; truth, justice, trust, love, peace, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption
- exploring the influence on moral choices of the teachings of Jesus Christ, family, friends and media and how society is influenced by beliefs, teachings, sacred texts and guidance from religious leaders of Christianity and other world faiths
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- considering what is of ultimate value to pupils, Christians and other faith believers through studying the key beliefs and teachings from religion and philosophy on values and ethical codes of practice
- studying a range of ethical issues, including those that focus on justice, to promote racial and religious respect and the importance of personal integrity
- considering the importance of rights and responsibilities and developing a sensitive conscience

Social development

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples.” John 13 v 34-35

Social development in a Church School should develop children’s understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus’ command to love one another is put into practice

This is promoted through:

- building relationships within the school and between the school, the parish and the local community
- developing a sense of empathy, compassion and concern for others
- considering how Christian beliefs affect decisions at local and national level
- investigating social issues from the perspective of Christianity and of other faiths, recognising the common ground and diversity that exists between them
- providing opportunities for pupils to articulate their own views on a range of current issues and to show respect for the opinion of others and a willingness to learn from their insight

Cultural development

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3.28

Cultural development in a Church School provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a world wide multi-cultural faith that has an impact on the lives of millions of people.

This is promoted through:

- promoting an understanding of Christianity from a global perspective through encounters with people, literature, the creative and expressive arts and resources from differing cultures
- exploring the diversity of Christianity worldwide with particular reference to the diversity of the Anglican community
- considering the relationship between British and European culture and Christianity
- appreciating the diversity of cultures within Britain
- highlighting the work of Ecumenical partnerships, local and national interfaith projects

5. Systems for Evaluation

- Progress and implementation will be discussed regularly at Staff Meetings and Governor Meetings
- The impact of the Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development Policy will be a significant addition to the School's Self Evaluation document indicating the unique ethos and distinctiveness of the Church School

6. Strategy for Maintaining the Effectiveness of the Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development Policy

- To ensure that the Governing Body is aware that this is a policy that will be scrutinised by the Ofsted and the Faith Inspectors
- That the school has the responsibility for appointing a member of staff to co-ordinate the policy
- That the Governing Body give minuted approval annually
- That there are regular reports to the Governors on the efficiency of the policy and the outcomes

7. Other Policies Relevant to the Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural Development Policy

Every Child Matters Policy	All Curriculum Policies	Behaviour Policy
Anti Bullying Policy	Staff Induction Policies	Extra Curricular Policy
Race Equality Policy	Staff Handbook	Extended Services
Child Protection Policy	Special Educational Needs	RE Policy
PHSE/Citizenship Policy	Worship Policy	

Most policies jigsaw closely together. It is not always necessary to include sections within a policy just refer to the relevant stand-alone document to support a holistic approach.