



All Saints C of E
Infant and Nursery School

Selston C of E
Infant and Nursery School

SMSC Policy

September 2021

*Opening hearts and minds through the
grace and love of God*

ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

SELSTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VC) INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

Opening hearts and minds through the grace and love of God

At All Saints Infant and Nursery School and Selston Infant and Nursery School children always come first and we try to nourish, challenge, prepare and inspire them within a Christian ethos.

We believe in valuing all who contribute towards the successful running of our schools including children, parents, carers, governors, teaching and non-teaching staff.

This Mission Statement lies at the heart of our schools' aims. It is the philosophical basis for all of the schools' policies and through these, for everything that happens in and round our schools. Our aspiration is for everyone at All Saints and Selston to:

- feel happy, secure, safe and valued at school
- develop a growing awareness of their own inner self and spirituality, and of the power of the Christian faith to transform lives
- develop healthy relationships based on care, trust, compassion and forgiveness
- show acceptance for and understanding of others who may have different beliefs or needs
- strive for the highest standards of achievement, developing the confidence and skills to be independent, motivated and self-disciplined learners
- have a positive approach to life, contributing to the well-being of the community and building hope for the future

We hope that children will leave our schools with open hearts and minds, ready to respond to the opportunities that lie before them and to experience the joy of life in all its fullness.

Introduction

This policy statement has been formally adopted by the Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher. It is consistent with the aims of the school as expressed in the Mission Statement and with the school's Christian tradition. It takes account of the school's values, the Framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools (SIAMS), and the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

The School's Approach to SMSC Development

At Selston Church of England Infant & Nursery School and All Saints Infant and Nursery School, pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is of the highest priority. We aim to provide as many opportunities as possible for pupils to develop the associated knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes; we know that good quality provision in this area is seen as a key characteristic of a distinctively Christian school. In our promotion of SMSC, we also support the outworking of the Southwell and Nottingham Diocesan vision, 'Joining together in the transforming mission of God', and particularly the commitment to grow disciples.

SMSC is integral to all aspects of school life at Selston and All Saints. In addition to this, there are planned opportunities for pupils to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes across the curriculum. However, this is achieved mostly through collective worship and Religious Education.

Spiritual Development

Spiritual development is about the development of the most distinctive and desirable capacities of the human person; those capacities that, above all, distinguish human beings from other living creatures. It is a concern which goes beyond what a pupil can know and do and relates to what sort of person they are and are becoming.

At Selston and All Saints School, we want our pupils to develop their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. We aim to support them to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material wellbeing.

We understand that spiritual development can enrich and encourage the child's journey towards a deeper understanding of our 'inmost being', God our Creator and the wonder of the environment around them.

'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.'
Psalm 139 v 13-14

Opportunities for spiritual development may be encountered in these ways in the life of our school:

- deep thinking in exploring challenging questions and issues;
- being calm and peaceful - reflecting from within;
- exploring faith – both our own and someone else's;
- knowing ourselves – as known and loved by God and unique and special to Him;
- accepting and understanding differences;
- exploring belief and how an individual's beliefs impact on their living;
- opportunities to explore prayer and worship from a variety of Christian traditions;
- valuing one another in community and fellowship;
- developing gifts of imagination and creativity;
- participating in godly play.

Moral Development

Pupils' moral development involves an understanding of the difference between right and wrong and of moral conflict, a concern for others and they will do what is right. At Selston, we encourage pupils to reflect on the consequences of their actions and learn how to forgive themselves and others. Over time, they develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, qualities and attitudes they need in order to make responsible moral decisions and act on them.

We aspire to develop in our pupils a deep, abiding commitment to moral values so that they cultivate their own moral identity. We want these values to become so embedded that doing what is right becomes a reflex, even when this conflicts with other needs and wants. Our chosen values (love, service, forgiveness, truth, endurance) are consistently promoted throughout the whole life of our school.

Our curriculum gives pupils opportunities to explore issues from a wide range of viewpoints but underpinning all discussion, reflection and evaluation are the teachings of Jesus Christ, offering pupils a foundation stone on which to build their lives.

*'Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me'.
Psalm 31:2-4*

Opportunities for moral development may be encountered in these ways in the life of our school:

- developing a sense of right and wrong based on Christian teaching (good and bad choices);
- aligning behaviour and attitudes in the light of Christian teaching;
- being able to recognise expectations;
- considering the values by which we live and the ways in which they are based on the Bible (e.g. forgiveness, truth, love);

- considering the individual's rights and responsibilities which will include justice and fairness for themselves and others;
- asking questions such as: What motivates me? Who do I want to please by the choices I make?

Social Development

Social development involves an understanding of the responsibilities and rights of membership of families and communities (local, national and global), and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good. At Selston and All Saints, we want our pupils to have a sense of belonging to our school community and to display an increasing willingness to participate in it. We aim for each pupil to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of the communities of which they are part.

We aim to develop our pupils' understanding of what it means to live in a Christian community where Jesus' command to love one another is put into practice.

'May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.'

1 Thessalonians 3:11-12

Opportunities for social development may be encountered in these ways in the life of our school:

- understanding and valuing self and others;
- being aware of own and others emotions and feelings and how to respond to different emotions;
- building relationships between different communities e.g. parish, local, global etc;
- understanding and acceptance of difference;
- talking to, listening with and cooperating with others;
- consideration of own and others rights, responsibilities and aspirations;
- appreciation of appropriate behaviours and social conventions.

Cultural Development

Cultural development involves an understanding of cultural traditions and ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences. We want our pupils to acquire a respect for their own culture and that of others, an interest in others' ways of doing things and curiosity about differences. We help them to develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture.

Cultural development provides opportunities to develop an understanding of Christianity as a worldwide multi-cultural faith and appreciation of the diversity of beliefs and cultures across the world.

*'There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus'.
Galatians 3:28*

Opportunities for cultural development may be encountered in these ways in the life of our school:

- learning about others, accepting and valuing other traditions and celebrations;
- developing an awareness of one's own culture and how it has changed;
- exploring the diversity of cultures and beliefs within Britain;
- understanding the contexts in which people express their beliefs and identity;
- promoting an understanding of Christianity from a global perspective which may include encounters with people, literature, the creative and expressive arts and resources from differing cultures.

Partnerships with Parents, Carers and the Wider Community

We believe that strong home/school relationships are vital if staff and parents/carers are to work effectively in partnership to support pupils' SMSC development.

Visitors to school participate in and contribute to school activities and the delivery of the curriculum.

Links with the local community including our linked church, at Selston and All Saints, and other places of worship are fostered.

Children are taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment and the school supports the work of a variety of charities locally, nationally and globally.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

This is achieved by:

- monitoring of RE, PSHE and worship planning, teaching and learning including the assessment and tracking of pupil progress;
- discussions during staff and governors' meetings;
- review of related policies and their consistent implementation;
- RE/PSHE/SMSC developments and inclusion in the school development plan (as appropriate);
- collation of evidence of pupils' work and experiences;
- sampling of pupil focus groups to evaluate impact on their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes;
- SIAMS and Ofsted self-review.

Implementation of the Policy and Review

The implementation of this policy and the planning and teaching of SMSC is the responsibility of all staff.

The policy will be reviewed in line with the school policy review cycle.