



## **SMSC Policy**

**Heaton School**

**SMSC Policy Agreed at:  
Teaching & Learning Committee 20/11/18**

Signed and Approved by:

Headteacher ----- (Signature)

----- (Name)

----- (Date)

Chair of Committee ----- (Signature)

----- (Name)

----- (Date)

**To Be Reviewed: Autumn 2020**

**Designated person: Jonathan Curtis, Headteacher**

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education: (including Collective Worship).

## **What is SMSC?**

### Spiritual

Explore, through a range of creative techniques, different beliefs and experience; respect faiths, feelings and values; enjoy learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

### Moral

To show understanding of right and wrong; respect the law; understand consequences; investigate moral and ethical issues; offer reasoned views.

### Social

Use a range of social skills; participate in the local community; appreciate diverse viewpoints; participate, volunteer and cooperate; resolve conflict; engage with the 'British values' of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

### Cultural

Appreciate cultural influences; appreciate the role of Britain's parliamentary system; participate in culture opportunities; understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

## Collective Worship:

Worship in community schools without a religious character must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Collective worship is of a broadly Christian character 'if it reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.'

'Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to, watching and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes.'

## **Legal Requirements:**

Pupils 'on each school day take part in an act of collective worship.'

An **'outstanding' school** will have a 'thoughtful and wide-ranging promotion of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'.

## Values

The school seeks to promote the key elements of SMSC. (see SMSC audit). The pupils learn about themselves, how they relate to others and their community, gain an increased understanding of good and bad choices and the consequences of their actions and how they can contribute to society:

- Understanding of their sense of self.
- Curiosity about the world/outdoors.
- Reflect on the consequences of their actions, learn how to forgive themselves and others, which are attitudes they need to make moral, responsible decisions and act on them.
- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Recognise the challenge of life today and the role they play in it.
- Understanding of the responsibilities and rights of being members of families and communities (local, national and global).
- An ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good.
- Take initiative on wider social issues and establish ways they can help on an individual, local, national and global scale.
- Acquiring an understanding of cultural traditions and ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences.
- They acquire a respect for their own culture and that of others, an interest in others' ways of doing things and curiosity about differences.

The school seeks to promote collective worship through whole school events which take place in assemblies and RE whole school learning days, which:

- Foster their emotional life and express their feelings
- Experience moments of stillness and reflection
- Reflect on, consider and celebrate the wonders and mysteries of life

The school seeks to promote the educational values:

- Communication and interaction.
- Life skills and independent living.
- Friendship and Community.
- Health and Wellbeing.
- Exploring and understanding the world.

## **Spiritual and Moral Development across the Curriculum:**

All subjects on the curriculum have a role to play in developing ‘the knowledge and understanding essential to both spiritual and moral development, they give pupils the ability to formulate moral decisions and understand the consequences of their decisions. For more details see the SMSC audit.

## **Collective Worship**

The school complies with the legal requirement for a daily act of collective worship through daily opportunities to reflect in silence or with music in our assemblies. Pupils may also have to opportunity to respond to information sharing based assemblies.

All assemblies take place in the school hall and cover a range of topics both religious and non-religious.

As required by law, most assemblies which take place reflect key cultural traditions/events that are significant to British culture or celebrate an awareness of other cultures traditions.

Assemblies and other sessions encourage 2 key skills:

Reflection: thinking about/listening to a range of social, personal, moral and spiritual.

Response: affirm and celebrate the values taught in the curriculum and encourage pupils to aspire to greater achievements. For pupils to communicate how different things make them feel.

The SLT will take on responsibility for the assembly programme, individual teachers will lead the assemblies.

Parents have the right to withdraw their pupils from collective worship and any religious festivals/RE days that take place in school.