



## **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) at Beechcroft Infants School**

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of our children has always been at the heart of the education offered at Beechcroft Infants School. Our approach to SMSC is embedded in the ethos of mutual respect, partnership working and collaboration; an approach that we believe is fundamental to a full and positive participation in life in modern Britain. We also actively promote the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, ensuring these principles are woven throughout our curriculum and school life.

### **Children at Beechcroft Infants School will have opportunities to:**

- Share their achievements and successes with others
- Talk about their personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas
- Speak about the different events appropriate to their age
- Learn about families and relationships
- Consider the needs and behaviours of others
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging

### **We support the spiritual development of our pupils to enable them to develop their:**

- Self-esteem and early skills of critical thinking and independent thought, ability to be reflective about their own beliefs, religious or otherwise and discuss feelings and responses to experiences that inform their perspective on life.
- Interest in and respect for different people's faiths, feelings and values, sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them.
- Our children will have the opportunity to experience moments of stillness and reflection.

- Children also experience opportunities for calm reflection within class and assemblies.

**We support the moral development of our pupils to enable them to develop their:**

- Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong, and to apply this understanding in their own lives and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Understanding of the consequences of their behaviour and actions.
- Interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and being able to understand and show consideration for the viewpoints of others on these issues.
- Respect for the environment and all living things.
- Understanding of their rights and responsibilities within the school environment and the wider world through PSHE lessons. We link their learning to our three school rules to better contextualise our guiding principles.
- Age-appropriate understanding of the protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Act 2010, enabling them to recognise fairness, challenge stereotypes, and show respect for differences.
- Our SMSC provision works closely alongside our PSHE (including RSHE) curriculum to support pupils' well-being, safety and resilience. Through this, children learn how to recognise healthy relationships, keep themselves safe, and understand how their actions affect others.
- We use the Zones of Regulation approach to help children recognise and manage their emotions, build self-regulation skills, and develop strategies for maintaining well-being. This supports pupils in making positive behaviour choices and developing empathy towards others.
- Through our PSHE and computing curriculum, children also learn about safe and respectful online behaviour, developing the skills needed to navigate digital spaces responsibly.

**We support the social development of our pupils to enable them to develop their:**

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Collaboration, turn-taking, listening to others' ideas, and resolving conflicts using respectful language. They are encouraged to participate in democratic processes within school, such as contributing to class decisions and sharing their views.

- Willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively.
- Acceptance and engagement with the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- We encourage children to develop their voice and leadership skills by contributing to class discussions, sharing ideas in assemblies, and taking on roles of responsibility within school.

**We support the cultural development of our pupils to enable them to develop their:**

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others.
- Understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures within school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain.
- Willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities.
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity.
- Tolerance towards different religious, ethnic and socio economic groups in the local, national and global communities.
- Cultural capital through teaching the essential knowledge that children need to prepare them for their future success and identifying a vast array of opportunity for every child to experience.
- We help children develop curiosity about the world around them and an appreciation for the diverse communities that make up modern Britain. Through stories, celebrations, visitors and experiences, children learn to value and respect cultures beyond their own.

We evaluate the impact of our SMSC provision through pupil voice, classroom observations, engagement in assemblies and enrichment activities, and feedback from staff and families. This helps us ensure SMSC remains embedded across school life and continues to meet the needs of all pupils.

These are the skills and attitudes we believe will allow our students to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

**Practical activities at Beechcroft Infants School which help develop SMSC:**

- Working together in a variety of groups, partners, teams e.g. classwork, PE lessons – the list is endless!

- Our PSHE Jigsaw curriculum supports all aspects of SMSC.
- Begin to take responsibility e.g. taking registers, classroom monitors.
- Show appreciation for the success and performances of others e.g. celebration assemblies on Fridays, Christmas and Summer performances.
- Celebrate the arts from around the world e.g. various artists studied and celebrated.
- Participate in a variety of educational visits and welcome visitors to the school day.
- Enjoy a range of live performances.
- Use assemblies to explore a range of themes, festivals, cultures and religions.
- Be exposed to stories and literature from different cultures.
- Access resources, including role-play items, representing different cultures.
- Learn songs and chants from around the world including music of different genres in assemblies.
- Learn about the contributions to our local community and society that people famous and not famous have made e.g. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Florence Nightingale.

SMSC is woven throughout our wider curriculum, including English, RE, history, geography, science and the arts, ensuring that children encounter meaningful SMSC experiences across all areas of learning.

#### **Links with the wider community:**

- Links with the local Junior School and places of worship.
- Visitors are welcome to the school having completed all relevant safeguarding checks.
- Children are taught and encouraged to look after their local environment and be aware of the wider environment and the effect we have on it.

See Cultural Capital overview for further information.

**‘Growing hearts, Shaping minds and Inspiring futures’**