**William Cassidi C. E. Aided Primary School**

**Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy**

At William Cassidi C. E. Aided Primary School we will:

• Welcome everyone

• Build Christian values and worship into our teaching

• Establish strong links between home, school and community

• Endeavour to reach our full potential and celebrate our achievements

• Care for, encourage and respect each other

• Support each other to stay safe, healthy and make a positive contribution to our World

**Rationale:**
The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child is recognised as being of fundamental importance for the education of all children by Governors, staff and parents of our school.  It is taught through all subjects of the curriculum and in particular Worship, RE, RSE and PSHE. The PSHE policy statement reflects the social element of SpMSoC.  It supports all areas of learning and can contribute to the child’s motivation to learn. It is recognised that such development will be most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by the staff provide a model of behaviour for the children.  In later years it can enrich the individual’s appreciation of life’s experiences and their relationships with others.

**School Ethos, Vision Statement And School Motto:**
The values and attitudes promoted by the staff influence the behaviour and attitudes within the school.  The quality of relationships and the atmosphere within the school reflect an appreciation of their shared values:

Jesus taught his disciples many important lessons. He taught them about God, about what He had come to do and about themselves. He also taught them how they should treat each other.

Matthew 5 v.41

‘And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.’

Jesus taught that we should choose to go further than is required of us in our actions and attitudes. Jesus guided us by example, the way he lived and by putting others before himself. He never moaned when He did not get any peace or turned anyone away who needed his help. He encouraged his disciples to do the same.

We too can follow Jesus’ example by **‘Going the Second Mile’** and showing **‘love, care and respect’** to everyone, to all things God created and our world, just as Jesus did.

Our vision will be embedded through the exploration of Bible passages each school year ensuring our children begin to develop a relationship with Jesus, are guided and understand His messages and how they are the core of how we act every day of our lives.

These statements were agreed by our Governing Body and staff in July 2022.

**Spiritual Development**:
Spiritual development is relevant to all children not only those who come from Christian homes. In developing the spirituality of children, we help them to become aware of, articulate and reflect upon:

* The human search for meaning and purpose of life which may lead to an understanding and belief of God
* The joy of being alive
* The beauty of the natural world
* The mystery and wonder of existence
* The world of imagination and creativity
* The value of the non-material dimension of life
* The need to understand oneself and one’s feelings
* The need to value oneself and one’s feelings.
* The need to recognise the feelings and achievements of others

**In this way, spiritual development encourages:**

* Self-awareness
* Reflection
* Reasoning
* A sense of enduring identity
* Good relationships
* Co-operation and empathy
* The formation of long-term ideals

**Our school will promote spiritual development through:**

* Fostering high self-esteem by encouraging children to take risks or face challenges in their learning within a secure and positive environment.
* Demonstrating its appreciation for work of the child’s imagination and provide opportunities for them to use their own creativity and imagination.
* Offering opportunities for aesthetic experience in art, music, dance, and literature.
* Making time for stillness and reflection which may lead to children coming to the threshold of prayer.
* Posing questions that encourage children to consider issues of meaning and purpose.
* Developing good listening skills in the children; the School will show that it is listening to the children through its response to issues raised, by them, via the School Council, circle time and in class worship.
* Showing that it is not always possible to provide an absolute answer and at such times it is a positive experience to value a variety of interpretations and responses.
* Improving co-operation and understanding in relationships, providing opportunities such as group activities where children have constructive and enjoyable interaction with others; it is important that they sometimes work with those children who they would not normally choose as partners.
* Fostering emotional well-being by encouraging children to express their feelings and to have the ability to control their emotional behaviour.
* Developing the capacity for evaluative reasoning and critical thought by encouraging children to look beyond the surface.

These opportunities appear across the curriculum although are clearly scheduled in RE, Collective Worship and the Creative Arts.  As a school, we value opportunities presented within the Science, Design and Technology and Mathematics curriculum as well as across curricular opportunities.

**Moral Development:**
This relates to the child’s developing understanding of what is “right”, “wrong”, “fair” and “just”.

The School will try to build on the moral guidance within the home while accepting that there might be different approaches between home and school.

The school will actively teach and promote the British values of:

* Democracy
* The rule of law
* Individual liberty
* Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

**Moral development is concerned with:**

* Developing the child’s awareness and understanding of the moral code of the communities in which they live; these may or may not be statutory.
* Helping the child to realise that to enjoy rights we have to accept responsibilities which include environmental and global issues.
* Developing the child’s understanding of why rules are necessary.
* Developing moral decision making and accepting that decisions may be difficult, sacrificial and courageous which includes an acceptance that a decision may be made which can be wrong even if the intention was right.
* Developing the child’s self-discipline so that rules are observed as a point of principle and not out of the fear of sanctions.
* Giving the child the knowledge and ability to question and to reason so that they are capable of deciding on the most appropriate action after considering the consequences of an action.
* Develop the skills necessary to explain their own behaviour.
* Value physical well-being, privacy, feelings, beliefs and rights of others.
* Enabling a child to consider the concept of sacrifice so that by giving up something personally another can flourish.

**Our School will promote the moral development of the child by;**

* Making explicit the standard of behaviour that is expected, and the reasons why school rules exist.
* Expecting that they will accept proper authority and do as they are told.
* Showing respect to all adults in school e.g. Teachers, TA’S Lunchtime Supervisors and Adult Helpers.
* Having a consensus of values that are stated clearly and owned by everyone, especially the children and involving the child in the evaluation of these.
* Building up the self- esteem of the child.
* Encouraging everyone within the school to behave in an acceptable way towards one another and the created, built and natural environment.
* Training children in understanding the consequences of their actions.

It is important that there is a consistency in the approach to this amongst the staff.
Opportunities to promote moral development will be provided during Circle Time and the School Council, as well as in class and whole school worship.

**At our school our Moral Code is based on the Christian values of:**

* Compassion
* Friendship
* Respect
* Perseverance
* Forgiveness
* Thankfulness
* Truthfulness
* Generosity
* Courage
* Trust
* Service
* Justice

We expect that our children will:

* Tell the truth
* Keep promises
* Respect the rights and property of others
* Be considerate to one another
* Care for the physical world and for other people
* Accept responsibility for their own actions
* Employ self-discipline

**We will not accept:**

* Bullying
* Cheating
* Deceit
* Cruelty
* Irresponsibility
* Dishonesty
* Selfishness

**Cultural Development:**
Development in this area allows the child to recognise that all cultural groups are distinctive. Culture is the embodiment of shared beliefs, knowledge, customs and values of that group. The child needs to appreciate the distinctive features of their own culture and those of others.  This will help children to answer the questions “Who am I” and “Where do I fit in?” We aim to enable children to undertake this on local, national and global levels.

We need to remember that cultures are dynamic and are constantly being re-shaped. We aim to encourage appreciation of children’s own and different cultures by undertaking learning which cultivates curiosity, appreciation and respect. Through exploration of different religions and cultures, we aim to prepare children for life in modern Britain.

**Our School will promote cultural development through:**

* Exposing children to a wealth of stimuli from their own culture and heritage, and those of others. This will be taught through the whole curriculum in particular RE, Literature and Music. Visits out of school and visitors to the school will support this teaching
* Encouraging participation in and appreciation of the wealth of cultural traditions and the beliefs associated with these in local, national and global communities
* Encouraging tolerance and appreciation of the beliefs, values and customs of different cultures and by celebrating diversity therein.

Opportunities to nurture the cultural development of the child exist in all creative areas - PSHE, RE and Collective Worship, Art, Craft and Design, International Studies and Physical Education including dance and drama.

**Collective Worship:**

William Cassidi C. E. Aided Primary is a Church of England School and as such the promotion and the understanding of Christianity and its values is a key part of Collective Worship.

In Collective Worship children will be given the opportunity to:

* Be part of a community
* Think about the needs of others
* Explore and share beliefs

Policy approved by the Ethos Committee: 29th March 2023

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