

St Peter's C of E Academy
Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

As a church school, we believe that '**Giving children the keys to unlock their future**' will enable all pupils to flourish within our care and achieve their full potential. This is underpinned by the words of Jesus:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 16:19)

Introduction

Education should provide pupils with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, high standards of personal behaviour, a positive caring attitude towards other people, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions, and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

The Christian commitment which underpins the work and nature of the school is endorsed in our mission statement and the aims of the school.

Aims

The school will:

- Ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and principles.
- Ensure a consistent approach to delivery of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the curriculum and in the general life of the school.
- Ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- Ensure that pupils have a clear idea of what is expected of them and why.
- Give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experiences.
- Enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that enrich our society.
- Give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- Promote positive and effective links with the local community in particular with the church and local Chippenham schools.

Values

The school has 5 core values which are caring, sharing, forgiveness, respect and questioning. We seek to model, recognise and promote those through everything we do and teach.

Guidelines

We will adopt the following guidelines:

- The values and principles that are reflected in the Christian ethos of the school are also reflected in all school policies and are whole school issues.
- The Christian values will be delivered at whole school, key stages, class and individual levels, through the whole curriculum and acts of collective worship.

Date issued: January 2023

Start Review by: January 2024

Custodian: Headteacher

Adopted: January 2023

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- Opportunities for promoting the values of the school also exist at playtime and lunch time.
- The school promotes the teaching of Christian values.
- All adults model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals, showing love and respect for pupils and their families.
- Pupils should learn to differentiate between 'right and wrong' in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.
- Pupils should understand the need for rules and the need to abide by rules for the good of everyone. School and classroom rules should reflect, reiterate, promote and reward acceptable behaviour, and provide opportunities to celebrate pupils' work and achievements.

Teaching and Organisation

Class discussions, group work and one-to-one discussions will give pupils opportunities to:

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings
- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events e.g. bullying, death etc
- Share thoughts and feelings with other people
- Explore relationships with family / friends / others
- Consider others' needs and behaviour
- Show empathy
- Develop self-esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop the skills necessary to work and play effectively with others in pairs, in large and small groups and across different age groups.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen and talk to others.
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals, including those who are physically or mentally different.
- Share ideas and points of view.
- Agree and disagree.
- Take turns and share equipment.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Links with the wider community:

Visitors are welcomed into school (in line with the school's H&S policy).

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Strong links with the church are fostered through links with the local church, other local churches and the Diocesan Bristol Academy Trust. The development of a strong home / school link is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support the pupil. Pupils will be taught to appreciate their local environment and to develop a sense of responsibility towards it.

Conclusion

High standards in the areas of spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development will be sought and maintained by establishing the clear principles and values evident in the biblical concept of loving each other as Jesus loved us.

This policy should be read in conjunction with St Peter's Academy Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy, DBAT Equal Opportunities Policy and DBAT Equality and Diversity Policy.