

## **Statement for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) at Mrs Ethelston's**

At its heart 'spiritual, moral, social and cultural' development (SMSC) is about: relationships; attitudes; personal insight; and appreciating the world we live in. At Mrs Ethelston's we embrace SMSC understanding as crucial for the growth of each unique individual. This is underpinned by our Christian and British values and aligns to our vision: ***"Deep Christian roots, nurturing strong growth, flourishing children"***

At Mrs Ethelston's we aim to provide our children with a wide range of opportunities to develop our SMSC. Every half term, we invite the whole school to take part in a 'stop the clock' day focussing specifically on a subject that develops one or more of our Spiritual, Moral, Social or Cultural understanding. This is in addition to the SMSC we interpret into our daily routines and education.

Threading throughout school life and evidenced in everything we do, our SMSC provision is seen as:

**Spiritual** – exploration and reflection of beliefs and experiences; positive values; discovering oneself and the surrounding world; imaginative and creative learning; and forming personal perspectives.

**Moral** – how we live, recognising right and wrong; understanding consequences; learning from experience, making choices, investigating moral and ethical issues; and forming reasoned views.

**Social** – skills for successful personal relationships; relating to adults; appreciating family, friends and community; working with and service to others; fostering partnerships; resolving conflict; and living positive values to participate in life in modern Britain.

**Cultural** – appreciation of cultural influences and experiences (e.g. art, music, theatre, travel); the ability to understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

Collective worship and celebration assemblies reaffirm the importance of relationships with opportunities to reflect on our own lives and to think of others. We ensure time for prayer; nurture endurance and hope; and encourage our children to show friendship, peace, love, good choices, perseverance and celebrating life as our core values.

We deliver a relevant, engaging and inspiring programme for SMSC through: an enquiry approach in **RE**; use of Jigsaw learning materials in **PSHE** (Personal, Social and Health Education); and careful planning for other subjects building in opportunities for reflection and pondering some of life's 'big questions'. For example:

**Literacy** – stories and poetry help children makes sense of their lives, nurtures their imagination and helps them to see the world from different perspectives and to share their thoughts through talking and writing.

**Maths, Science and DT** – the exploration of pattern, space, infinity and the natural world raises consideration of the bigger picture and the mysterious; thinking about how inventions have improved life or threatened the world.

**Geography and History** – learning where we are in the world and to empathise with people from other times and cultures is vital in understanding who we are and how we fit in.

**Music, Art and Drama** – inspires reflection, personal imagination and creativity; fosters appreciation of other people’s talents; or opportunities to feel or be someone else.

**PE** – children can express themselves and delight in movement; make links with national and global sporting events; learn to work together and to demonstrate resilience and sportsmanship.

In our local context, regular **Forest School** promotes SMSC understanding. The children experience the wonders of nature and delight in helping nature with bird feeders, nest boxes, ‘bug hotels’ and many more eco activities. Participation in eco and environmental schemes provide further opportunities for our children to learn about nature and the role they play in protecting our world, with our Eco committee leading both the staff and children towards a greener future.

We also support a number of local charities such as Lyme Forward and The Word Forest Association, in addition to those overseas such as Mary’s Meals. This enables the children to learn about a number of local and world issues and develop their empathy.

We plan opportunities for our children to engage with other schools and to be stimulated through awareness and invite a diverse range of visitors and trips to other places to further develop our SMSC understanding.