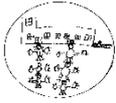


# Sladefield Infant School



## Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) and British Values at Sladefield Infant School

September 2015

The DfE have recently reinforced the need 'to create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all school to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance and acceptance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

This policy takes into account section 78 of the education Act 2002 which requires Sladefield Infant School, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, to promote the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of pupils at our school and of society. It also takes into account the non-statutory advice on British Values from the Department of Education (November 2014), the Prevent Strategy, the Teachers Standards and the Equality Act 2010 Advice for schools. Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, we at Sladefield School also demonstrate that we are actively promoting British Values.

This policy also links with our policies for:

- Anti bullying
- Behaviour management
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Curriculum Policies
- Equality and Diversity
- PSHE
- Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Policy

At Sladefield Infant School the promotion of SMSC and British values is not something new and the promotion of these values is in much of what we do. This starts with our school Values and Ethos and permeates right the way through the curriculum into every part of the school day.

As well as actively promoting British Values and the development of SMSC the opposite also applies: we challenge pupils, staff and parents/carers where opinions and behaviours which are contrary to these values are shown.

At Sladefield Infant School values are reinforced in many ways. For more detail on how they are included in our curriculum and our school life, see the document below:

- SMSC AND THE PROMOTION OF BRITISH VALUES

**Being Part of Britain**

At Sladefield Infant School, we value and celebrate the diverse heritages of everybody at our school. Alongside this, we value and celebrate being part of Britain. In general terms, this means that we celebrate traditions, such as customs in the course of the year: for example Harvest festival, Elections, Royal Events such as the birth of Princess Charlotte and the Queen's birthday. We also value and celebrate national events, a recent example being the General Elections 2015.

Furthermore children learn about being part of Britain through topics such as Our World which includes the study of well-known historical and geographical landmarks, British Transport and Britain during the Victorian era.

The promotion of British Values is achieved at Sladefield through the effective spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our pupils, as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and extra-curricular activities, through our links with both the local community and the wider world. In promoting our pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, we demonstrate our commitment to actively promoting fundamental British Values in ways which are appropriate to our pupils' age and ability.

We will enable our pupils to understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. The ethos and teaching of our school, which we will make parents aware of in our Home School Agreement and during curriculum and year group meetings, will support the rule of English Civil and Criminal Law and we will not teach anything that undermines it. In our teaching about religious law, we will take particular care to explore the relationship between state and religious law, at the level appropriate to the age of the children. Our pupils will be made aware of the difference between the law of our land and religious law.

Through our provision of SMSC and promotion of British Values, we will:

- Enable our pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self esteem and self-confidence (CIRCLE TIME, PSHE and RE CURRICULUM, Assemblies and School Council and Behaviour Policy - Use of Strategies including emotional well-being approaches to discipline);
- Enable our pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England (Behaviour Policy, Topics, Circle time, PSHE and RE curriculum, History and Geography based topics);
- Encourage our pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely (Circle time, PSHE/RE, teaching approaches and strategies, topics such as learning about significant people who have changed our lives for the better, behaviour Management and Policy);
- Enable our pupils to acquire a broad and general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England (Visits to key landmarks and institutions such as the fire station, library and park, visitors including police officers, nurses and doctors, topics based Our Community, Our City and Our Country);

- Further develop tolerance and harmony between our country's different cultural traditions by enabling our pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures (RE, History and Geography based topics);
- Encourage respect for other people; and encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England (Behaviour Management and Policy - Rules and Responsibilities, teaching approaches, visits and visitors such as the police);
- We will ensure that our curriculum includes activities appropriate to the age and development of our pupils that will help to prepare them positively for life in modern Britain.

## **Democracy**

At Sladefield it is important that we hear all stakeholders' voices and we actively encourage feedback from children, staff and parents/carers. Democracy at Sladefield is promoted through:

- **School Council** - The Election of the School Council members reflects our British electoral system and demonstrates democracy in action: candidates write manifestos and make speeches, pupils consider characteristics important for an elected representative, pupils vote in secret, etc. Made up of two representatives from each year 2 class, the School Council meets regularly to discuss issues raised by the different classes. The council has its own budget and is able to genuinely effect change within the school; in the past the School Council has planned a charity event, sending letters out to the community and raising money for a charity.
- **Behaviour Management** - Children agree their Class Rules and the rights associated with these; all children contribute to the drawing up of these rules.
- **Opinions of all stakeholders are sought through:** Pupil, staff and parent questionnaires annually analysed and development points addressed.
- **Teaching approaches** -allowing children time to reflect on topics and themes; developing creative and critical strategies allowing children to make choices about their learning.

Pupils are always listened to by adults and are taught to listen carefully and with respect to each other, respecting the right of every individual to have their opinion and voices heard. We encourage pupils to take ownership of not only their school but also of their own learning and progress. This encourages a heightened sense of both personal and social responsibility and is demonstrated on a daily basis by our pupils.

## **Rule of Law**

It is important that children are able to distinguish between right and wrong and are taught to respect the civil and criminal law. At Sladefield School we believe it is important for children to accept responsibility for their behaviour and we give children many opportunities to reflect on their behaviour choices. We aim for children to develop a good understanding of how they can contribute positively to the wider community with which they live in. The importance of rules and laws, whether they be those that govern our school or our country, are referred to and reinforced often, such as in assemblies and when reflecting on behaviour choices through our Emotional Well-Being approaches. Pupils are taught the value and reasons behind laws, that they govern and protect us, the

responsibilities that this involves, and the consequences when laws are broken. In addition we reinforce this further by ensuring:

- Children are involved in reviewing the School Rules including the Rewards and Sanctions;
- Every class sets their own class rules at the beginning of an academic year, a set of principles that are clearly understood and agreed by all and seen to be necessary to ensure that every class member is able to learn in a safe, happy and ordered environment;
- Children are encouraged to follow rules in other subjects, competitions and visits to other settings;
- Weekly Circle Time sessions give children the opportunity to reflect on issues related to the class or school. Themes focus on children reviewing our own behaviour and how it effects others;
- We plan visits from authorities such as the Police and Fire Service;
- During Religious Education, when rules for particular faiths are explored;
- During other school subjects where there is respect and appreciation for different rules - in PE lessons, sports day, circle time rules, etc.

### **Individual Liberty**

Alongside rules and laws, we promote freedom of choice and the right to respectfully express views and beliefs. Through the provision of a safe, supportive environment and empowering education, we provide boundaries for our young pupils to make choices safely. It is important for children to be able to make individual choices, with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure environment. At Sladefield Infant school we want to encourage pupils to make their own decisions whilst providing them with safe boundaries which enable and empower them to make informed choices. At Sladefield Infant School we promote personal responsibility and liberty through:

- Our curriculum which involves children contributing their thoughts, ideas and questions which directs the learning;
- Children have the opportunity to make personal choices such as daily lunches and contributing ideas to after school clubs activities and choices around the participation in these extra-curricular clubs;
- Choices about how they record their learning;
- The Sladefield Infant School Characteristics of Learning skills which focuses pupils on positive attitudes towards learning rather than outcomes. The Characteristics of Learning skills are reflected on within class on a daily basis.
- Providing curriculum opportunities both in specific subjects as well as themed topics such as 'Anti-bullying Week', 'Health Week' for children to learn about keeping healthy and safe, thus being able to make personal informed choices about their own lifestyles;
- Circle time sessions in which pupils express their views, opinions and feelings on a wide range of themes and issues in a safe, supportive and secure environment.

### **Mutual Respect**

Our school values sit at the heart of everything we do and believe in as a school and many of them inform the concept of mutual respect. Mutual respect is fundamental to our ethos. These values are

explored through assemblies and discussions as well as being referred to when needed. One of the key values is Respect and is the first of our school rules and all members of the school community are expected to treat each other respectfully at all times. Pupils are encouraged and supported from a very young age to respect and care for each other. Our pupils know and understand that it is expected and imperative that respect is shown to everyone, whatever differences we may have. Pupils learn that their behaviour choices have an effect on their own rights and those of others. To promote a greater understanding of mutual respect at Sladefield Infant School we ensure:

- PSHE and Circle time is taught across all year groups and this teaches pupils to think about their own behaviour and how it effects themselves and others;
- The RE curriculum teaches the children about Christianity and compares this to other faiths (as followed by the agreed Birmingham Syllabus);
- In English, Art and History lessons where we develop an awareness and appreciation of other cultures;
- The children learn about key festivals from other cultures and countries during assemblies and classroom activities;
- Year 2 helpers support younger children at lunchtimes through a Buddy program;
- Our Learning Mentor supports children who are struggling to get along with others;
- Anti-bullying themes are focused on during assemblies and through themed weeks;
- Adults' model mutual respect around the school.

### **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**

Many pupils at Sladefield Infant School have a very limited personal experience of other cultures and faiths, therefore we feel that it is essential that we promote diversity and broaden our pupils' experiences. We celebrate and learn about the differences between the diverse communities in Britain but always with a focus on what also makes us similar. Evidence of prejudice is challenged and dealt with and we have a comprehensive RE and PSHE curriculum which explores and gives value to difference in detail.

In order to enhance our pupils' understanding of other faiths and cultures, at Sladefield Infant School we:

- Teach awareness of other faiths and cultures through our RE and PSHE curriculum;
- Provide resources including literature, visits and visitors, which broaden the pupil's experiences, e.g. books, role play, toys;
- Plan topics that focus on different countries and cultures;
- Celebrate Black History Week with each year group learning about a significant Black role model.

Review September 2017