



Collective Worship / British Values / Spiritual, Moral, Social Cultural (SMSC) and Religious Education (RE) Policy

The aim of this policy is to provide the opportunity for all pupils to:

- Reflect on values that are of broadly Christian nature and on personal beliefs
- Develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
- Encourage students 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;
- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions, religious institutions and services in Britain;
- Further understand tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions and religions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures; the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law
- 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.

Rationale

This policy reflects and reinforces many of the school's aims:

- respect and responsibility
- reflective self development
- positive relationships
- tolerance of different cultures and religions
- a common ethos and shared values
- consideration of spiritual and moral values

Statutory Duty of the School

The Headteacher together with the Governing Body are responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship. Daily collective worship will be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character with a strong emphasis on social, spiritual, moral and cultural development of students. The precise nature will depend on family background, ages and abilities of the pupils. However, if it is inappropriate for some or all of the pupils to take part in Christian collective worship, the

Headteacher may apply to the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) for a determination to have this requirement lifted.

Our vision for RE is based on the national guidance issued by the RE Council in 2013 and the local agreed syllabus for Kirklees and Calderdale, 2014. Inclusion of British Values and SMSC is a requirement of the National Curriculum.

Implementation

The delivery of Collective worship, British Values, SMSC, RE whether in assembly, tutor time and in lessons, will:

- be acceptable to the whole community, staff and pupils
- include a variety of elements at different times
- involve all pupils including those who have different or no religious beliefs
- staff leading the collective worship should make it open and inclusive, ensuring that language is appropriate for all and does not make any member of the community feel uncomfortable
- aim to establish an atmosphere that is conducive to reflection and participation.
- a 'thought for the week' will be placed in planners and on plasma screens and opportunity given in tutor time for reflection
- reflection time will be given during assembly to think about the message delivered

Curriculum Time

- Core British Values and SMSC will be an integral component of all subject areas and all lessons and will be referred to explicitly. Through the delivery of the curriculum students will develop an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process; An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- Through RE lessons pupils will experience different religions and cultures which will allow greater cultural understanding of life choices. This may include school visits to places of worship and guest speakers.
- Collective worship is based around a coherent structure of themes which differ each week. Assemblies provide themes to collectively reflect on and celebration assemblies happen once each term. The theme for each week is also shared through the plasma screens.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

**Parents have a right to withdraw their children from collective worship and Religious Education. If a parent asks for their child to be wholly or partly excused from attending any RE or collective worship at the school the school must comply unless the request is withdrawn.*

Students withdrawn will be supervised and not be treated in a way which makes them feel isolated or different.

Parents do not need to explain their reasons for seeking withdrawal. The Department for Education recommends that, to avoid misunderstanding, a Headteacher may wish to clarify with any parent wanting to withdraw:

- the religious issues about which the parent would object their child being taught*
- the practical implications of withdrawal*
- the circumstances in which it would be reasonable to accommodate parents wishes*
- if a parent will require any advanced notice of such issue in the future and if so, how much.*

NB: Teachers and the Headteacher also have the right to withdraw from collective worship.