

# LAVANT C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



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

**Date: March 2024**

**Next Review Date: March 2027**

Lavant CE Primary is an inclusive and ambitious school at the heart of the local community. Our vision is to inspire and support every child (and adult) to aim for and achieve their very best, loving one another and '**living life in all its fullness**' (John 10:10).

Our aims are to:

**Provide** inspirational real life learning experiences which challenge, engage and motivate within a creative, inclusive Christian environment.

**Nurture** reflective learners who have a sense of responsibility, humility and respect.

**Encourage** effective, purposeful collaboration between individuals, who understand the importance of their contribution to local and global communities.

**Foster** a life-long love of learning where individuals accept challenges and take risks with the perseverance to adapt and aspire.

### **Context**

The Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural policy, along with the school's Vision, values and aims set the whole ethos for Lavant CE Primary School. It is integral to all areas of teaching and learning as it infiltrates the whole curriculum. It is especially important in a church school that there is a strong sense of caring for the whole school family and community and that each person feels valued as an individual. We recognise that spiritual development is not limited to religious beliefs and knowledge, but embraces a much wider code of beliefs and attitudes.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies: Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, R.E., Equalities Policy and Objectives, Teaching and Learning and Collective Worship.

### **Introduction**

At Lavant CE Primary School we recognise that the personal development of children spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn and to achieve. As a Church of England school we provide an education that embodies a Christian ethos and provides our children with opportunities to explore and develop their own values and beliefs and raise their spiritual awareness. We look for high standards of behaviour, a positive, caring attitude towards others and an understanding of social and cultural traditions. We actively promote character education and British values in all that we do. Further information on British Values can be found in Appendix A (i) and (ii).

### **Our School Ethos**

We create and enrich a positive learning environment for everyone within school and within the wider community. We value every individual as wonderfully made, created in the image of God. Within our school community all adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing love and respect for our school community. The school is a place where children flourish and can find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals. Forgiveness and the opportunity of 'fresh starts' are fundamental to the ethos of our school.

### **General Aims**

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and ethos.
- To ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of SMSC through the curriculum and the general life of the school.
- To ensure that children know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each child a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experiences.
- To give each child the opportunity to gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- To give each child the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense

of social and moral responsibility from a Christian perspective.

### **Spiritual Development**

Whilst fostering respect, understanding and tolerance of other faiths, we affirm the unique role of the Christian faith in the life of the school. Spiritual development is a process of growth. In developing the spirituality of children, we help them to become aware of the human search for meaning and purpose of life which may lead to an understanding of and belief in God. We will provide opportunities for them to reflect, discuss, experience and celebrate:

- The knowledge of God through acts of collective worship
- 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 and to recognise:
- The need to understand oneself and one's beliefs, culture, views and feelings
- The need to value oneself and one's beliefs, culture, views and feelings
- The need to acknowledge the beliefs, cultures, views, feelings and achievements of others

### **Moral Development**

Moral development is concerned with acquiring knowledge and understanding of what is right and wrong, along with respecting the civil and criminal law of England. The system of codes and behaviour established in our school is an important early introduction to issues of fairness and equity for all and the consequences of operating outside the accepted rule system. Children are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction rather than because of consequences or sanctions. Moral development, based on Christian teaching, enables children to become increasingly responsible for their own actions and behaviour. We use a system of restorative justice to help to make children aware of the affect of their actions on others and to develop a culture of courage, honesty and generosity. Children are also offered opportunities to consider moral and ethical issues and to appreciate and understand the views of others on these issues.

### **Social Development**

Social development refers to the development of abilities and qualities that children need to acquire if they are to play a full and active part in society. As a school we will promote opportunities within a safe and caring environment that will enable children to:

- Interact positively with others and experience being part of a whole caring community with an understanding of and engagement with fundamental values of democracy, law, individual liberty, respect and tolerance
- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity
- Understand that as individuals we depend on family, school and society, and that we are a part of communities and social settings
- Take responsibility for their own behaviour, behave with courtesy and good manners, and demonstrate skills and attitudes to contribute positively to life in modern Britain
- Develop an understanding of the desirability for social justice and a concern for the disadvantaged throughout the World
- Learn and practise respect for others
- Put down deep roots and have commitment to life-time endeavours

### **Cultural Development**

Cultural development will explore the diversity and richness of local, national and world cultures and beliefs, including our Christian faith and heritage, and how these influence individuals and society.

As a school we will promote opportunities that will enable children to:

- Recognise and value the richness of cultural diversity in our local, national and world communities, and develop an interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity
- Recognise the place of Christianity among many faiths across the world
- Develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment
- Develop an understanding of Britain's local, national, European, Commonwealth and global dimensions
- Demonstrate their respect towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities, and things we share in common
- Participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities

### **Curriculum**

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to children's SMSC development SMSC within specific areas covered by curriculum subjects can be seen in Appendix B.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is an on-going process. Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. This is achieved by:

- Considering SMSC opportunities during classroom observations.
- Regular discussion at staff and governors' meetings.
- Presentation from SMSC lead to Governors & Foundation committee.
- Audit of policies and the curriculum by subject leaders.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.

### **Conclusion**

Lavant CE Primary School, we educate and develop the whole child. We are committed to providing the best opportunities for them educationally and to develop spiritual and moral qualities within themselves that will stay with them forever. Our SMSC Policy supports this desire to give children a broad-based learning culture that will develop them as citizens of the future

## **APPENDIX B SMSC in action across the curriculum**

### **Religious Education**

- To develop spirituality through a sense of awe and wonder, through learning about the life and work of Jesus and by identifying the marvellous world of God's creation.
- To give opportunity for reflection, and to consider miracles and other faith stories.
- To learn about people who gave their lives for others, in particular, missionaries and those who gave their lives for their faith.
- To develop spiritual awareness of God through worship and prayer.
- To develop an awareness of right and wrong.
- To use the model of Jesus to learn how to treat others in accordance with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments.
- To develop an awareness of other religions and cultures with particular reference to Judaism, Hinduism and Islam.
- To help and care for others, initially through the family unit and ultimately in the wider society.
- To become aware of how society functions and how we are interdependent.
- To develop an awareness of the traditions specific to other societies and to respect their culture and beliefs.

### **English**

- To develop empathy and sensitivity through literature and drama.
- To develop expression of their own feelings through the spoken and written word.
- To use moral stories as a basis for discussion, e.g. Aesop's fables & traditional fairy tales.
- To collaborate in groups, sharing ideas and values.
- To develop an awareness of other cultures through stories which reflect current cultural backgrounds and traditions, including folk tales.
- To provide opportunities for children to develop their creativity.

### **Mathematics**

- To develop a sense of awe and wonder by looking for patterns and symmetry in nature.
- Through mathematical games, to learn conventions of playing fairly.
- To develop an awareness of other cultures through looking at pattern, e.g. Islamic patterns, different currencies, measurements and Arabic number systems.

### **Science**

- To develop a sense of awe and wonder through exploring the beauty, delicacy, enormity and variety of the created universe.
- To consider the ways in which light, sound and water are used as symbols for religious rituals.
- To become aware of moral and ethical issues in the scientific world.
- To develop a concern for our world, to understand the need to treat all living things with care and respect and to develop a sense of responsibility and stewardship.
- To consider how scientific inventions have affected society e.g. electricity.

### **Computing**

- To become aware of moral and ethical issues as part of online safety – e.g. scams, fake news, cyber bullying.
- To understand the need to treat all people with care and respect both in reality and in online situations.
- To consider how Computer Science has affected society e.g. use of the internet. This can also include taking part in national and global events such as Safer Internet Day.

### **Art/Design Technology**

- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and appreciation through the work of different artists and through design.
- To begin to express their own feelings through the creative arts.
- To develop an awareness of other cultural traditions through studying a range of artefacts from different cultures and countries.

### **Music**

- To develop a sense of awe, wonder and appreciation by providing opportunities for children to listen to, and respond to, a range of music.
- To enable the children to express feelings through listening and performing.
- To develop an awareness of interaction with, and dependency on others when performing collaboratively.
- To value the role of others.
- To respect and value cultural diversity, be aware of cultural heritage through listening to a variety of music from other countries and cultures.
- To learn about our own heritage through listening to a range of music and songs.

### **Humanities**

- To develop a sense of awe and wonder by discovering the world around us.
- To provide an opportunity for reflection through learning about natural forces and observing beauty in our environment.
- To develop an awareness of moral issues through considering the effects of people's decisions, inventions and actions on our lives and on our world.
- To understand that actions of the present affect people in the future and that actions in the past have affected our lives today.
- To consider the effects of pollution and conservation on our environment.
- To become aware of features which provide for social and leisure activities through learning about our environment.
- To develop cultural awareness through looking at life in different countries, cultures, customs, music, homes, clothes and traditions.

### **Physical Education**

- To develop a sense of wonder at personal physical achievements.
- To develop an understanding of other people's feelings through reflecting what it is like to win or lose.
- To empathise through the celebrating of achievements and supporting in failure.
- To develop a moral sense and self-discipline by observing rules and encouraging sporting behaviour.
- To be aware of appropriate acceptable behaviour at large sports fixtures.
- To work co-operatively as part of a team.
- To recognise strengths and weaknesses and to help and support each other.
- To become aware of the games of different cultures.
- To provide opportunities for all children to have equality of access to all sports and games.

### **Modern Foreign Languages**

- To learn and embrace other languages, traditions and cultures.
- To consider 'identity' and what it means to them and others.
- To explore emotion through language and reflect on the different uses of language.
- To recognize the importance of learning something new by trying a different language.
- To explore and experiment with language.
- To appreciate the similarities and differences between France and Britain.

### **Class, group and paired discussions will also give children opportunities to:**

- Talk about personal experiences and feelings

- Express and clarify their own ideas and beliefs
- Speak about difficult events e.g. death, bullying, loss etc.
- Share thoughts and feelings safely with others
- Explore relationships with friends/family/others
- Consider others needs and behaviour
- Show empathy
- Develop self esteem and a respect for others
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Develop skills of empathy, respect, open-mindedness, sensitivity, critical awareness etc