

# Highwoods Community Primary School



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

**Reviewed date - July 2023**

**Next review - May 2025**

At Highwoods School we recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore aim to provide an education that provides 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 all cultures.

## **Guidelines**

All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and opportunities for this will be planned in each area of the curriculum.

At Highwoods we take pride in behaviour and expect all adults to model and promote expected behaviour by treating all people as unique and valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. We take our school motto 'Learning for Life' to heart and through our behaviour policy and through use of key skills, we hope that Highwoods will be a place where pupils can find acceptance for themselves as individuals.

At Highwoods we believe that pupils should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people and all pupils are 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. The school rules (Highwoods 5: responsible, respect, positive, kind and honest) help children reflect on and celebrate their behaviour.

No school can effectively promote the personal development of its pupils' without the partnership of parents and the wider community, thus we pride ourselves in being a community school and we hope that by promoting the wider community, pupils will be able to experience a wide range of spiritual, moral, social and cultural diversity emphasising British Values.

## **General Aims**

- To ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of our values and
- To ensure that a pupil's education is set within a context that is meaningful and appropriate to their age, aptitude and background.
- To ensure that pupils know what is expected of them and why.
- To give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- To enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- To enable pupils to begin to develop an understanding of their social and cultural environment and an appreciation of the many cultures that now enrich our society.
- To give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.

### Spiritual Development

Provision for the spiritual development of pupils includes developing their:

- Ability to be reflective about their own beliefs (religious or otherwise) and perspective on life;
- Interest in, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values;
- Sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them;
- Use of imagination and creativity in their learning;
- Willingness to reflect on their experiences.

### Moral Development

Provision for the moral development of pupils includes developing their:

- Ability to recognise the difference between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding to their own lives, and recognise legal boundaries and, in so doing, respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- Understanding the consequences of their behaviour and their actions;
- Interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues and ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on those issues.

### Social Development

Provision for the social development of pupils includes developing their:

- Use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds;
- Willingness to participate in a variety of communities and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively;
- Acceptance of and engagement with the fundamental British Values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. They will develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in and contribute positively to life in modern Britain.

### Cultural Development

Provision for the cultural development of pupils includes developing their:

- Understanding and appreciation of the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others;
- Understanding and appreciation of the range of different cultures in school and further afield as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain;

- Ability to recognise, and value, the things shared in common across cultural, religious, ethnic and socio-economic communities;
- Knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its critical role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain;
- Willingness to participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities;
- Interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different faiths and cultural diversity and the extent to which they understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity and things we share in common. This is shown by their respect and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.