



Weston Schools Federation

SMSC Policy 2024-2026

Date of last review: June 2024

Date of next review: June 2026



1. RATIONALE

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child is recognised as being of fundamental importance for the education of all children by governors, staff and parents/carers of our schools. It supports all areas of learning and is taught through all subjects of the curriculum and in particular RE, PSHE and P4C (Philosophy for Children). SMSC enables children to interpret and respond to a variety of concepts, beliefs and practices and to their own and others cultural and life experiences. In Weston Park Primary School and Weston Shore Infant School we value cultural diversity and work towards a common vision with a sense of belonging for all communities. We value and appreciate the diversity of backgrounds and circumstances. It is recognised that such development will be most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by the staff provide a model of behaviour for the children.

2. Aims

2.1 Spiritual Development:

- To encourage a sense of awe, wonder, mystery and joy
- To develop a sense of being part of a greater whole
- To begin to search for meaning and purpose
- To provide a wide range of encounters with religions which will help children form a view of the world that they can apply to their own experiences
- To encourage and develop children's interest and opinions about simple concepts and recognise and express their own values and beliefs
- To enable children to consider the effects religion has on peoples lives
- To value and respect the importance of religious beliefs to those who hold them
- To use collective worship to raise awareness of the world with emphasis on family life, festivals and common themes

3.2 Moral development:

- To begin to articulate attitudes and values
- To develop a set of socially acceptable values and principles
- To make judgements on issues by applying moral principles, insights and reasoning
- To take responsibility for ones' own actions
- To understand the consequences of actions for self and others
- To behave consistently in accordance with the ethos and values of our schools
- To offer time to reflect upon spiritual and moral issues through collective worship

3.3 Social development:

- To understand how individuals relate to each other
- To begin to adjust to a range of social contexts by appropriate and sensitive behaviour
- To make a personal contribution to the well-being of groups
- To recognise the ability to exercise responsibility and initiative
- To participate cooperatively and productively in the community
- To know how societies function and are organised

- To understand how what is learnt in the curriculum relates to life in society

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- To be able to take on a variety of roles when working collaboratively
- To recognise each child as an individual and raise self esteem
- To become active citizens who recognise their rights and responsibilities

3.4 Cultural development:

- To recognise and respect the rights of others to exercise a cultural influence
- To begin to know the nature and roots of cultural traditions
- To recognise the key features of major cultural groups within society
- To develop and strengthen the cultural interests of pupils
- To develop positive awareness of cultural diversity within our locality and the wider world and recognise who we are, where we've come from and what we've brought with us
- To accept and celebrate our similarities and differences
- To recognise and actively challenge prejudice and develop tolerance and open-mindedness
- To support all children in developing personal and cultural identities

4. GUIDELINES

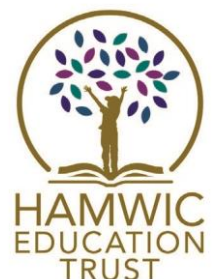
We will:

- use a range of teaching and learning styles, including the children in activities such as discussions, role play, dilemma on the door, games, investigations and problem-solving activities.
- organise classes and learning experiences in such a way that pupils are able to participate in discussion to resolve conflicts or behavior.
- ensure children have opportunities to meet and work with members of the community, whom we visit and invite into the schools to talk about their role in creating a positive and supportive local community.
- allow children to take on different roles of responsibility during their school life, for example; lunchtime monitors, playground buddies and members of the school council
- teach SMSC in a variety of ways across the whole curriculum e.g. RE, PSHE, PE, geography, art, music, dance, literacy, maths, science and P4C. We will also teach it through collective reflection, our Core Values, through offsite visits and visitors and through the expectations of behaviour promoted by adults in the schools.
- recognise and promote achievements in a variety of ways through weekly celebration collective reflections and school displays.
- promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in classrooms and the school environment.
- participate in collective worship.

5. Monitoring

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The PSHE/P4C leader[s] is/are responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching. This person supports colleagues in the teaching of SMSC, by giving them information about current developments in the related areas. Strengths and weaknesses and areas for further improvement are discussed with the Year Leader and SLT members at Pupil Progress meetings.

6. Vision and Core Values:

At Weston Park Primary School and Weston Shore Infant School we have core values that everyone understands. We believe that to be a **learner** you must be **safe**, be **responsible** and be **respectful**. We are passionate that our unique children deserve to be equipped with the essential knowledge and skills needed to be successful: in the next stage of their education; in their homes; in their local communities and in the wider world. Our curriculum reflects our ambition that every child is able to make safe choices and develops a deep spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding.

We are aspirational and we want our children to:

- Celebrate diversity by showing respect and open-mindedness.
- Work successfully together and consistently model exceptional team-work.
- Have self-confidence in order that they are able to achieve whatever they set their minds to.
- Develop verbal and written communication skills that can be used in all circumstances.
- Understand the importance of celebrating success and seeing disappointment as a part of growing and developing. Developing resilience to overcome challenges they may face.
- Smile and understand the importance of positivity and happiness.
- Have a strong moral compass and become well-rounded members of society who as aspirational for themselves as we are for them.

As staff we will:

- Be relentlessly consistent in every moment, every day.
- Model: positive behaviour, high standards, high expectations, dealing with success; dealing with disappointment and hard work.
- Listen and treat all children with kindness.
- Show that we believe in every single child through encouragement and by being their champions.
 - Ratified at Full Governing Body Meeting February 2022

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