



SMSC Policy

2026-2027

OUR TRUST'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father

Let peace, friendship and love grow in our schools

Send the Holy Spirit to give:

Excellence to our learning

Love to our actions and

Joy to our worship

Guide us to help others

So that we may all

Learn, Love and Achieve, Together with Jesus.

Amen

Our Christian Vision is:

'Journeying Together to Live, Learn and Laugh with the Love of God'

Our school's relationship with St James the Great Church is a well celebrated and inspiring feature of the school. Children, parents and the community are encouraged to live by our Bible quote '**Do everything in love' 1 Corinthians 16:14**. We do this by modelling behaviours, supporting many charities and working with a variety of groups in the local community to make our local area, the wider community and our world a great place to live.

Our 12 **Christian Values** are taught through Collective Worship, class and family group activities and homework that encourages communication with parents and other family members. These are explicitly taught on a two year rolling programme and reviewed at different times throughout the year. Our Christian Values are linked to bible stories and therefore rooted in Christian narrative.

This vision underpins our SMSC policy.

Our School Aims

In order to prepare today's children for tomorrow's challenges, St James CE Primary School aims to achieve the following:

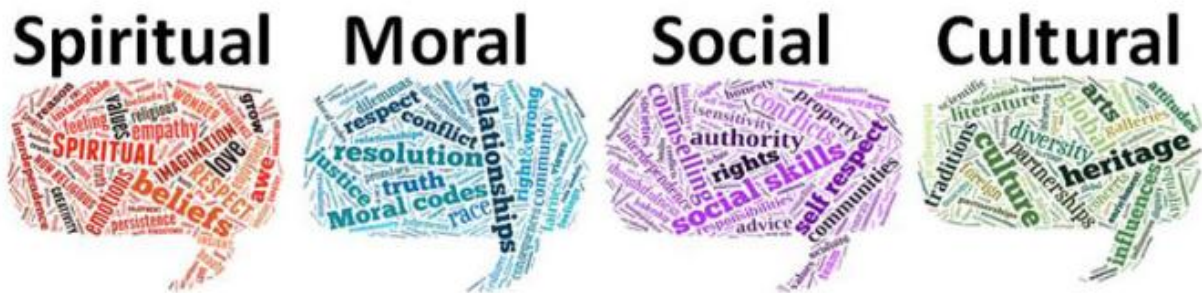
- Every child will be encouraged to understand the meaning and significance of faith, experience God's love and develop the spirituality to enable them to live out our Christian values.
- Every child will achieve their full potential through being a highly motivated, resilient, and independent learner who embraces new experiences, has confidence to tackle challenges and go on to develop a lifelong love of learning.
- Every child will value themselves as a unique individual with special qualities and strengths developing self-discipline and honesty; taking responsibility for their own actions and appreciating their ability to make a positive difference in the world.
- Every child will appreciate and respect others, celebrate differences between individuals and groups and respect and care for God's creation and the environment.

- Every child will be encouraged to make healthy choices and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

In order to do this, we will constantly reflect the Christian ethos of our school in our relationships with our children, their families, our staff, the church and the wider community.

What is SMSC?

SMSC is the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of the children in our school. It is not a separate subject that is taught explicitly but an aspect of learning that should be present throughout lessons and behaviour in school.



Aims of SMSC at St James CE

- Give each pupil a range of opportunities to reflect upon and discuss their beliefs, feelings and responses to personal experience.
- Enable pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- 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 and to embrace British values.
- Give each pupil the opportunity to explore social and moral issues, and develop a sense of social and moral responsibility.
- Enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Encourage 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.

- Enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England.
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect their own and other cultures.
- Encourage respect for other people.
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect on the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Aims of Spiritual Development

- Develop beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for different people's feelings and values.
- Create a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them, including the intangible.
- Sustain children's self-esteem in their learning experience.
- Develop children's capacity for critical and independent thought.
- Foster children's emotional life and how express their feelings.
- Enable children to experience moments of stillness and reflection.
- Enable children to discuss their beliefs, feelings, values and responses to personal experiences.
- Enable children to form and maintain worthwhile and satisfying relationships.
- Develop children's ability to reflect, consider and celebrate.

Aims of Moral Development

- Recognise the unique value of each individual.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views of others.
- Gain the confidence to cope with setbacks and learn from mistakes.
- Take initiative and act responsibly with consideration for others.
- Distinguish between right and wrong.
- Show respect for the environment.
- Make informed and independent judgements.
- Take action for justice.

Aims of Social Development

- Develop an understanding of their individual and group identity.
- Develop self-awareness and self-confidence to that they can get on with others successfully.
- Help others in the school and wider community.
- Learn social norms and use of a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds
- Develop a willingness to participate in a variety of social settings, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively
- Foster an interest in, and understanding of, the way communities and societies function at a variety of levels.

Aims of Cultural Development

- Recognise the value and richness of cultural diversity in Britain and the rest of the world.
- Show understanding of beliefs, customs, values, knowledge and skills which form the basis for identity and cohesion in society.
- Show recognition of and respect for the rights of others to exercise a cultural influence.
- Show knowledge of the nature and roots of cultural traditions.
- Develop the capacity to relate what is learnt to an appreciation of wider cultural aspects of society.
- Develop and strengthen the cultural interests of pupils.
- Understand the diversity of religious, social, aesthetic, ethnic and political traditions and practices.
- Be able to evaluate the quality and worth of cultural achievements.

Teaching and Learning Style

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

We have four main areas that influence all our teaching and learning to help prepare our children for life in the diverse and ever-changing modern world:

Joyful Readers – By nurturing a love of reading, we open doors to spiritual growth, cultural understanding, and moral reflection, while helping children engage socially through shared stories and ideas.

Opportunities to Build Upon Knowledge and Skills – We equip pupils to grow intellectually and socially, encouraging them to use their gifts in service of others, and to develop wisdom that shapes their cultural and moral outlook.

Understanding of British and Christian Values – We help children to develop respect, fairness, and compassion, ensuring they value both their own faith and heritage and the diversity of cultures and beliefs in society.

Resilience and Perseverance – We encourage children to face challenges with hope and determination, building moral strength and fostering a spiritual sense of endurance in their learning journey.

Nurture Curiosity – We promote wonder and questioning, giving children opportunities to reflect on spiritual mysteries, moral choices, and cultural diversity, helping them to engage thoughtfully with the world.

Encourage Articulate Learners – We give children the confidence to express their ideas clearly and respectfully, strengthening social interaction, moral reasoning, and cultural appreciation through dialogue.

Your Wellbeing and Health – We support pupils in caring for their bodies, minds, and relationships, fostering empathy, self-respect, and a sense of responsibility for themselves and others in the community.

Being a Church of England School, Christian values, principles and spirituality will be explored throughout the entire curriculum, not only in RE and collective worship. However, in RE, the integrity and spirituality of other faith backgrounds will be respected and explored, and the diversity of spiritual traditions will be recognised, giving pupils access to alternative views.

All adults will model and promote expected behaviour, treating all people as valuable individuals and showing respect for pupils and their families. SMSC underpins our Behaviour and Relationship Policies. Children should learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as their actions affect other people. They will be encouraged to value themselves and others.

Children should understand their rights and responsibilities and the need to respect the rights of others. School and classroom rules promote responsible behaviour. All curriculum areas should seek to use illustrations and examples drawn from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible.

Links with the Wider Community

- Visitors are welcomed into our school.
- Strong links with the local church are fostered.
- Visits to places of worship of other faiths are arranged to support the understanding of different cultures.
- The school supports the work of a variety of charities.
- The development of a strong home-school agreement is regarded as very important, enabling parents and teachers to work in an effective partnership to support children.
- Children will be taught to appreciate and take responsibility for their local environment.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Provision for SMSC is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis through the following:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning by SLT and governors.
- Regular discussions at staff and governors' meetings.
- The planning and co-ordination of SMSC is the responsibility of the SMSC Lead who supports colleagues in their teaching, by keeping informed about current developments in the subject.
- Children perceptions about different elements of SMSC in order to inform future planning.

Evidence of SMSC in St James CE Primary School

Spiritual

- Christian Values underpinning all we do
- Quality of collective worship
- Class acts of worship
- Strong connections with Church
- Awards and Accreditations
- Excellent RE curriculum and teaching

- Warm and supportive school ethos
- Reflection areas in classrooms
- St James Spirit Curriculum
- Prayer spaces
- Ethos Group
- Visits to place of worship
- Focus on creativity and imagination in our curriculum delivery
- Sense of awe and wonder in curriculum design
- Oracy focus across the curriculum
- Picture News discussions weekly

Social

- Pupil performances (plays/leading worships at harvest, Christmas, Easter)
- Choir
- Trips
- Careers Week
- Residential and trips
- Sport teams/competitions
- Visitors to school
- Extra-Curricular provision
- Pupil Leadership Teams
- Promotion of pupil talk during lessons e.g. partner talk / group work
- Picture News discussions weekly

Moral

- Christian Values
- Pupil Leadership Teams
- Clear and effective behavioural policy
- Charity fundraising
- Behaviour on trips
- Good relationships between staff and children, children-children
- Literacy genres e.g. persuasion, debate
- Reward and consequence system
- Environmental focus e.g. All About Stem literacy week
- Oracy and debates
- Picture News discussions weekly

Cultural

- Multicultural days
- Inspiration days
- RE coverage

- Religious and non-religious trips
- Christian church performances
- Visiting speakers
- Trips to places of cultural and historic significance
- Charity focus
- Collective worship
- Oracy and debates
- Picture News discussions weekly
- Focus on context within our multi-cultural curriculum

To be reviewed: September 2027

Review Schedule

Policy Author	Jennifer Young
Policy Approver	Governing Body
Current Policy Version	Version 1.0 September 2025
Policy Effective From	September 2026
Policy Review Date	September 2027

Revision Schedule

Version	Revisions	By whom
V1.0	Created the policy	JY