



Rode Heath Primary School

Heath Avenue, Rode Heath,
Stoke on Trent, ST7 3RY

Telephone: 01270 685320 Fax: 01270 314414
E-mail Address: admin@rodeheath.cheshire.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr. John Frankland



Rode Heath
PRE-SCHOOL

Hearts and Minds Policy (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and Personal Development)

Written by:	John Frankland	Date: October 2026
Approved by:	The Governing Board	Date: October 2026

Review date: This policy will be reviewed in light of operating experience and/or changes in legislation or every three years whichever is soonest

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At Rode Heath Primary School, we believe that education is about far more than academic success. We are committed to developing the whole child and ensuring every pupil is equipped with the knowledge, skills, values and character needed to flourish in school, within their community and throughout their lives.

Our mission statement, "Inspiring Learning; Nurturing Minds; Achieving for Life," underpins everything we do. Through our curriculum, enrichment opportunities, relationships, assemblies, wider experiences and culture, we nurture both the hearts and minds of our pupils.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development is woven throughout all aspects of school life and forms a key part of our wider Personal Development offer. We refer to this approach as our Hearts and Minds Curriculum.

Our curriculum promotes our school values of:

- **Fairness** (Penguin)
- **Teamwork** (Dolphin)
- **Curiosity** (Meerkat)
- **Resilience** (Loggerhead Turtle)



These values guide behaviour, decision-making and relationships across our school community.

This policy reflects our commitment to developing confident, respectful and responsible citizens who are prepared for life in modern Britain.

Aims

The Hearts and Minds Curriculum aims to:

- Develop pupils' self-awareness, confidence and self-esteem
- Foster resilience, independence and positive wellbeing
- Enable pupils to distinguish between right and wrong and understand the consequences of their actions
- Promote respect, kindness, empathy and compassion
- Develop positive relationships and effective communication skills
- Encourage pupils to understand and respect differences
- Help pupils appreciate diversity and celebrate individuality
- Promote democratic values and active participation in school life
- Support pupils in becoming responsible members of their local, national and global communities
- Prepare pupils for life in modern Britain
- Encourage reflection, critical thinking and curiosity about the wider world
- Promote responsible use of technology and digital citizenship

Our Hearts and Minds Curriculum

The Hearts and Minds Curriculum provides a planned, progressive approach to developing pupils' personal, social and emotional understanding.

Our curriculum incorporates:

- British Values
- Relationships and Health Education (RSE)
- Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Online Safety
- Personal Safety and Safeguarding
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Anti-Bullying Education
- Citizenship and Community Engagement
- Environmental Responsibility
- Character Development

- Pupil Leadership Opportunities

Learning takes place through:

- Dedicated curriculum lessons
- Assemblies
- Class discussions
- Reflection opportunities
- Educational visits (from Reception onwards)
- Education residential visits (from Year 2 onwards)
- Visitors and workshops
- Enrichment activities
- School events
- Charitable activities
- Pupil leadership roles
- Daily interactions and relationships

Spiritual Development

At Rode Heath Primary School, spiritual development is concerned with the growth of a pupil's sense of identity, purpose, values and understanding of the world around them.

We provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Reflect on their experiences, beliefs and values
- Experience awe and wonder
- Develop curiosity and imagination
- Explore big questions about life
- Appreciate beauty in nature, culture and creativity
- Develop self-awareness and emotional understanding
- Reflect quietly and thoughtfully
- Celebrate achievements and personal growth
- Express opinions respectfully and listen to the views of others

Spiritual development is promoted throughout the curriculum, collective worship, assemblies and wider school experiences.

Moral Development

Moral development enables pupils to understand the difference between right and wrong and to make positive choices.

We support pupils to:

- Develop a strong sense of right and wrong
- Understand consequences and accountability
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity
- Show kindness, empathy and respect
- Take responsibility for their actions
- Consider different viewpoints
- Make informed and reasoned decisions
- Resolve disagreements peacefully
- Understand fairness, justice and equality

Our behaviour curriculum and school values support pupils in becoming ethical and responsible members of society.

Social Development

Social development enables pupils to build positive relationships and contribute effectively to society.

We provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Work collaboratively with others
- Develop leadership skills
- Build positive friendships
- Participate in team activities
- Resolve conflicts appropriately
- Contribute to school decision-making
- Support their local community
- Understand the responsibilities of citizenship
- Develop confidence in social situations
- Respect the rights and opinions of others

Pupil voice is highly valued throughout the school and pupils are encouraged to contribute meaningfully to school improvement and community life.

Cultural Development

Cultural development encourages pupils to understand, appreciate and celebrate diversity whilst developing a strong sense of their own identity.

We provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Explore their own heritage and culture
- Learn about different cultures, beliefs and traditions
- Celebrate diversity
- Develop appreciation of the arts, music and literature
- Understand Britain's multicultural society
- Explore local, national and global communities
- Challenge stereotypes and discrimination
- Respect differing faiths, beliefs and viewpoints

Through our broad and balanced curriculum, pupils gain an understanding of the rich diversity that exists within modern Britain and the wider world.

British Values

The promotion of fundamental British Values is integral to school life.

Pupils learn about:

Democracy

Through School Council elections, pupil leadership opportunities, voting and decision-making activities.

The Rule of Law

Through school rules, behaviour expectations and understanding laws that protect individuals and communities.

Individual Liberty

By encouraging pupils to make informed choices, express opinions and take responsibility for their actions.

Mutual Respect

Through positive relationships and appreciation of difference.

Tolerance and Respect for Different Faiths and Beliefs

Through the curriculum, assemblies, visitors, celebrations and discussions that broaden understanding of the world.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils feel safe, valued and included.

Pupils are taught to:

- Respect differences
- Challenge prejudice and discrimination
- Understand equality and fairness
- Celebrate diversity
- Show compassion and empathy
- Respect the protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010

Our curriculum reflects a diverse society and promotes understanding, acceptance and belonging.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Promoting positive mental health is a central aspect of our Hearts and Minds Curriculum.

We support pupils to:

- Recognise and manage emotions
- Develop resilience and coping strategies
- Seek support when needed (nurture lead/ nurture pathway)
- Maintain positive relationships
- Build self-confidence
- Develop healthy habits and lifestyles

Staff actively promote wellbeing through positive relationships, supportive classroom environments and targeted interventions where appropriate.

Online Safety and Digital Citizenship

Pupils are taught to use technology safely, responsibly and respectfully.

Learning includes:

- Online safety
- Cyberbullying awareness
- Managing digital footprints

- Critical evaluation of online content
- Privacy and personal information
- Safe online relationships
- Responsible use of emerging technologies
- Understanding misinformation and disinformation

Online safety education is embedded across the curriculum and supported through assemblies, workshops and parent engagement.

Pupil Voice and Leadership

Pupils are encouraged to contribute actively to school life.

Opportunities may include:

- School Council
- Eco Ambassadors
- Sports Leaders
- Playground Leaders
- Reading Ambassadors
- House Captains
- Charity and fundraising initiatives
- Curriculum and pupil voice groups

Through these opportunities pupils develop confidence, leadership skills and a sense of responsibility.

The Role of Staff

All staff have responsibility for promoting SMSC development and Personal Development.

Staff will:

- Model positive relationships and respectful behaviour
- Promote the school's vision and values
- Create inclusive learning environments
- Encourage reflection and discussion
- Foster pupil wellbeing
- Celebrate achievement and effort
- Challenge discrimination and prejudice

- Promote high expectations for all pupils
- Support pupils to become responsible citizens

Partnership with Parents and the Community

We recognise that parents, carers and the wider community play a vital role in pupils' development.

We work in partnership through:

- Regular communication
- Community events
- Educational visits
- Visitors to school
- Charitable activities
- Family learning opportunities
- Wider community engagement projects

These experiences enrich learning and help pupils develop a greater understanding of the world around them.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through:

- Learning walks and monitoring activities
- Curriculum reviews
- Pupil voice activities
- Behaviour and attendance information
- Safeguarding monitoring
- Staff discussions
- Governor visits and monitoring
- Observations of assemblies and wider provision
- Evaluation of enrichment opportunities
- Feedback from pupils, parents and staff

Findings will inform future development of the Hearts and Minds Curriculum and wider Personal Development provision.

Conclusion

At Rode Heath Primary School, we are committed to developing pupils who are confident, compassionate, respectful and resilient. Through our Hearts and Minds Curriculum, we ensure that every child develops the knowledge, understanding and character needed to thrive in modern Britain and beyond, enabling them to make a positive contribution to their community and achieve success throughout their lives.

Fairness For All

I promise to stand up against teasing language.

By adding my name I promise to stand up
for **fairness** and **kindness**
for all.

If I hear it, I will challenge it and if I can, I
will stop it.



Acts of Kindness

