



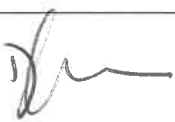
Weston CE Primary & Nursery School & Nursery

A Community, Learning and Growing

Promoting British Values & SMSC Policy

Spiritual/Moral/Social/Cultural

Created by A Gooderson - Taken from DFE Guidance	Date: January 2026
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Chair of Governors:		Date: 20/1/26
Headteacher:		Date: 20/1/26

Learn, Achieve, Enjoy

At Weston (CofE) Primary and Nursery School we strive to provide an education of the highest quality;

- welcoming all into our safe, friendly school
- nurturing each child to achieve their full potential and develop self-confidence
- preparing children for the rest of their lives
- promoting Christian and British Values
- working as a team with close links to the rest of the community
- with high expectations of everyone.

All maintained schools, including Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School, must meet the requirements set out in section 78 of the Education Act 2002 and promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. Through ensuring pupils' SMSC development, schools can also demonstrate they are actively promoting fundamental British values.

Meeting requirements for collective worship establishing a strong school ethos supported by effective relationships throughout the school, and providing relevant activities beyond the classroom are all ways of ensuring the pupils at Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School's SMSC development.

Pupils are encouraged to regard people of all faiths, races and cultures with respect and tolerance and this is taught explicitly through our RE Curriculum and through our Christian values ethos.

It is expected that the pupils of Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law. The Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School's ethos and teaching supports the rule of English civil and criminal law and this school does not teach anything that undermines it and actively encourages visits from role models from the community, for example: police and fire brigade.

Amanda Spielman (HMI Chief Inspector) recently stated that:
"Education is not just about the gaining of knowledge and the acquisition of skills but the basic aim of our schools is to aid the personal development of all our students in the fullest sense."

This clearly acknowledges that central to education should be the development of personal, social and emotional attributes, to support the whole child, thereby enabling them to academically flourish.

The 2019 OFSTED framework promotes and elevates the prominence of SMSC. The separation of the previous Behaviour and Welfare criteria into Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development, signifies a greater focus on these areas. On the whole this split may be a welcomed change, separating behaviour attitudes from discipline and seeing a critical role of schools to develop children in a wider sense so that they are healthy, active and engaged citizens.

We also see new vocabulary coming in to the framework such as pupils' being "committed to their learning, know how to study effectively" and that they "are resilient to setbacks and take pride in their achievements". The values teaching, recommended by the diocese and closely chosen to meet the needs of Weston pupils, supports these statements.

This clearly establishes an expectation on schools to be providing a rich, broad and engaging curriculum, from which children develop skills which are intrinsic to life-long learning and transferrable across all aspects of learning, social interaction and personal development. See: Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School's Curriculum Intent statement.

Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School will enable children to become responsible, independent and invested citizens in the world that they will grow up in. SMSC (and in particular mindfulness and mental health), is the golden thread that weaves through our school culture. We believe that personal, social and emotional skills are vital to children, if they are going to reach their potential academically and more importantly, as adults of an ever-changing future. We strive to provide them with the essential building blocks for life-long learning so that they can focus, concentrate, interact with others, regulate their emotions, build resilience and cope with the challenges of modern life.

Fundamental British values

Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs; through explicit teaching in assemblies and in PSHE lessons and workshops throughout the school year.

Actively promoting the Christian values using Christian resources means that the school is proactive in challenging opinions or behaviours in school that are contrary

to fundamental British values. More recently, we have included additional values, (suggested by the diocese), specifically chosen to meet the needs and aspirations of the pupils. Attempts to promote systems that undermine fundamental British values are completely at odds with Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery Schools' duty to provide SMSC education. The Teachers' Standards expect teachers to uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school and this is reflected in our code of conduct. This includes not undermining fundamental British values. Staff are also updated periodically in 'PREVENT' training.

Through our provision of SMSC, Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School:

- enables pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence. To enable all pupils to develop a positive attitude towards themselves and others, show respect for the world they live in and deal with everyday life situations in a confident and understanding way.
- enables pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourages pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, to understand forgiveness and reconciliation 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;
- enables pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England;
- enhances further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own, Christianity and other cultures;
- encourages respect for other people; and
- encourages respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

The list below describes the understanding and knowledge we seek to develop in pupils as a result of Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School promoting fundamental British values.

- an understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making through the democratic process;
- an appreciation that living under the rule of law protects individual citizens and is essential for their wellbeing and safety;
- an understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and that while some public bodies such as the police and the army can be held to account through Parliament, others such as the courts maintain independence;
- an understanding that the freedom to choose and hold other faiths and beliefs is protected in law;
- an acceptance that other people having different faiths or beliefs to oneself (or having none) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be the cause of prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour; and
- an understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School does not 'promote' teachings, beliefs or opinions that conflict with its own Christian ethos; however, it teaches the other faiths and religions as part of RE teaching to promote understanding, tolerance and mutual respect. It is not acceptable for Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School to promote discrimination against people or groups on the basis of their belief, opinion or background.

SMSC underpinned throughout the school by a strong Christian values culture:-

Spiritual Development

1. Feelings and Emotions: The sense of being moved by beauty or kindness; hurt by injustice or aggression; a growing awareness of when it is important to control emotions and feelings and how to learn to use such feelings as a source of growth.
2. Creativity: Expressing innermost thoughts and feelings through, for example, art, music, literature and crafts; exercising the imagination, inspiration, intuition and insight.
3. Self-knowledge: An awareness of oneself in terms of thoughts, feelings, emotions, responsibilities and experiences; a growing understanding and acceptance of individual identity; the development of self-respect.
4. A sense of awe, wonder and mystery: Being inspired by the natural world, mystery or human achievement.
5. Search for meaning and purpose: Asking "Why me?" at times of hardship or suffering; reflecting on the origins and purpose of life; responding to challenging experiences of life such as beauty, suffering and death.
6. Relationships: Recognising and valuing the worth of each individual; developing a sense of community; the ability to build up relationships with others.
7. Beliefs: The development of personal beliefs, including religious beliefs; an appreciation that people have individual and shared beliefs on which they base their lives; a developing understanding of how beliefs contribute to personal identity.
8. Experiencing feelings of transcendence: Feelings which may give rise to belief in the existence of a divine being, or the belief that one's inner resources provide the ability to rise above everyday experiences.

Moral Development

1. The will to behave morally as a point of principle. This attitude is fundamental to Moral Development.
2. Knowledge of the codes and conventions of conduct agreed by society, both non statutory and those prescribed by law.
3. Knowledge and understanding of the criteria put forward as a basis for making responsible judgements on moral issues.
4. The ability to make judgements on moral issues, as they arise by applying moral principles, insights and reasoning.

Social Development

1. The pupils will acquire an understanding and rights of being members of families and communities (local, national and global) and an ability to relate to others and to work with others for the common good.
2. They will display a sense of belonging and an increasing willingness to participate.
3. They will develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they will need to make an active contribution to the democratic process in each of their communities.

Cultural Development

1. Pupils will acquire an understanding of cultural traditions and an ability to appreciate and respond to a variety of aesthetic experiences.
2. They will learn to respect their own culture and that of others, an interest in others' ways of doing things and curiosity about differences.
3. They will develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they will need to understand, appreciate and contribute to culture.

Implementation

The promotion of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of each child is seen as the responsibility of all members of staff. Much of this development should be assimilated through the ethos of Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School. However, there are many opportunities within cross curricular work to focus on the above statements.

Some of the above statements will take place through direct teaching. Children will be taught:

- To distinguish between right and wrong;
- To articulate their own attitudes and values;
- To take responsibilities for their own actions;
- To recognise the moral dimension to situations;
- To understand the long and short-term consequences of their actions for themselves and others;
- To develop for themselves a set of socially acceptable values and principles, and set guidelines to govern their own behaviour;
- To recognise that their values and attitudes may have to change over time;
- To behave consistently in accordance with their principles.

All children, regardless of ability, gender or social background will receive the same teaching with each of their views being taken into account.

- Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School includes in suitable parts of the curriculum, as appropriate for the age of pupils, material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain, in contrast to other forms of government in other countries; mostly through assemblies and through PSHE teaching.
- Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School ensures that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to, and demonstrate how democracy works by actively promoting democratic processes such as a school council whose members are voted for by the pupils; met through the election of school councilors annually and pupil voice surveys
- Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School uses teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils understand a range of faiths, through RE and assemblies and
- Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School considers the role of extra-curricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values. (Pupil magazine, prayer writing)

Contexts for Promoting Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Developments in Weston Church of England Primary & Nursery School

It is possible to identify different contexts where suitable opportunities for promoting SMSC arise, in many areas of school life. These include:

- Religious Education
- Collective Worship
- National Curriculum subjects
- Non-Statutory subjects and aspects e.g. PSHE citizenship
- Teaching and learning strategies
- The quality of relationships between staff and pupils and between pupils
- Teachers and support staff as role models
- The ethos and Christian values of the school
- Aspects such as visits, visitors, clubs and extra-curricular activities.

Assessment

An ongoing Assessment of the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of a child will initially be the responsibility of the class teacher and thereafter by any member of staff who comes into regular contact with the child.

