

Victorious International British School

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Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy

Overview

We aim to provide a happy, stimulating and secure environment, reflecting the school's ethos where each pupil is given the challenge and opportunity to develop their full potential while enjoying learning and life. We endeavour to provide an environment and ethos in which children and adults can grow and develop spirituality and socially and where positive attitudes and consistency provide children with good role models, and similarly, older children are expected to demonstrate good behaviour and support to younger children. All children are valued equally whatever their stage of development, and are entitled to maximum success. The ethos encourages safe, sensible behaviour incorporating good manners, consideration, courtesy and respect for others whilst encouraging imagination, inspiration and reflection. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is promoted through all the subjects of the curriculum through the ethos of the school and through the development of positive attitudes and values. This policy supports and reinforces the aims of our school, valuing all children and staff equally and as individuals.

Principles

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development is crucial for individual pupils, staff and for society as a whole. We believe it is the heart of what education is all about - helping pupils grow and develop as people. It is an expectation at The Victorious School that all staff, in all subjects, can and should make a contribution to the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development of pupils through the taught curriculum and through the use of appropriate teaching and learning strategies such as discussion, reflection and pupil participation etc. The importance of relationships between all school staff, pupils and parents is crucial. These relationships will be characterised by:

- mutual respect,
- positive attitudes,
- the willingness to listen and be listened to
- the valuing of all pupils.

Aims

We aim to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum:

- To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- To promote respect and consideration for differences in gender, sex, race and religion.
- To help each pupil achieve their full potential across all areas of the curriculum.
- To develop the individual strengths of all pupils and to help and provide support in areas for development.
- To inspire and stimulate the pupils in order to foster a love of learning and enquiry, to reason rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and physical skills.
- To help our pupils towards independent learning and to equip them with all life skills in order for them to take their place in a fast changing society.
- To ensure there is continuity and progression in skills, knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.
- To develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, religions and ways of life.
- To help the pupils understand the world in which they live.
- To develop a sense of responsibility, consideration for others, self-respect and self-confidence.
- To promote good relationships between home, school and the local and wider communities.

Spiritual Development

We strive to support the children in the development of their spiritual life so that through reflection, they will acquire insights and attribute meaning and purpose to personal existence. Children's spiritual development involves the growth of their sense of self, their unique potential, their understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and their will to achieve. As their curiosity about themselves and their place in the world increases, they try to answer for themselves some of life's fundamental questions. They develop the knowledge, skills, understanding, qualities and attitudes they need to foster their own inner lives and non-material well-being.

Spiritual development will be supported through:

- Creating a curriculum that creates a sense of awe and wonder.
- The ability to listen and be still with quiet times of reflection.

Moral Development

Pupils are encouraged to understand the need for a common code and to follow it from conviction and intrinsically rather than because of sanctions or consequences. At The Victorious School we work towards an understanding of what is right and wrong. From this basis pupils may develop the ability to make judgements and to become increasingly responsible for their own actions or and behaviour.

Moral Development will be supported by:

- Understanding the principles lying behind decisions and actions.
- To be able to distinguish between right and wrong.
- To be able to make decisions, accepting and understanding consequences of their actions.
- To move gradually through a 'taught morality' to taking responsibility for their own moral decisions.

Social Development

This enables pupils to become conscientious participants in their family, class, the school, the local and wider community. Within this there should be a balance of the positive, satisfying elements of belonging to a group or society along with the demands, obligations and cooperation such membership requires. Therefore it is part of the school's responsibility to support pupils and their families in the formation of good social attitudes.

Social Development will be supported by:

- To relate positively to others and learn about the obligations, constraints and satisfaction that go with membership of a group or community.
- To become aware of their own identity as individuals and to take account of the feelings of others.
- To participate fully and take responsibility in the classroom and in the school.
- To use appropriate behaviour, according to situations.
- To participate in a supportive way in group and school activities so as to develop cooperative skills that will help all to live with each other.
- To learn what it means to be a responsible citizen.

Cultural Development

At the heart of cultural development lies the necessity to develop a sense of personal identity, whilst at the same time acquiring awareness, understanding and tolerance regarding the cultural traditions and beliefs of others.

Cultural Development will be supported by:

- To develop a sense of belonging to pupils' own culture and being proud of their cultural background.
- To respond to a variety of cultural events
- To share different cultural experiences e.g. visits to different places of worship.
- To respect different cultural traditions through the curriculum and Collective Worship and celebrate a range of cultural festivals eg. Chinese New Year, Christmas and Diwali.
- To understand codes of behaviour, fitting to cultural tradition.
- To develop an understanding of the positive light the contribution of other cultures, past and present add to our modern society.

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 the school. However, there are many opportunities within cross curricular work to focus on the aims and objectives outlined. All children regardless of gender, ability, race, religion or social background will receive the same teaching with each of their views being taken into account.

Many curriculum areas provide opportunities to:

- Listen, talk and collaborate with each other
- Learn an awareness of treating all as equals
- Agree and disagree respectfully
- Experience good role models
- Take turns and share equipment
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Practical activities to develop SMSC will include:

- Working together in different groupings and situations
- Encouraging the children to behave appropriately at meal times
- Taking responsibility
- Encouraging teamwork in a variety of activities
- Appreciation of and respect for the work and performance of other children

This policy was adopted by

Victorious School

On
Date to be reviewed
Signed on behalf of the provider
Name of signatory
Role of signatory

1st September 2022
1st September 2023
E Signature 
Victoria Gomez-Middleton
Director