



Religious Education and SMSC policy

At Uplands Infant School we recognise that the personal development of children, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore provide a caring ethos and an education that allows all children to explore, understand and express their own response to values, beliefs, cultural awareness and behaviour. We believe that by creating an awareness of the different traditions, customs and beliefs within the community we can enrich the children's understanding and prepare them for life in Modern Britain.

Aims (Taken from the agreed Syllabus)

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- Make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues.
- Enhance the children's SMSC development by asking questions about life and responding to questions with reference to religions and belief systems.
- Promote fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (Dept of Education).

The children will be encouraged to respond to and reflect upon what they learn so as to inform, clarify and develop their own beliefs and values.

The Curriculum in Early Years

In Nursery, RE is non statutory but teachers incorporate religious stories and the values of SMSC and British Values throughout their teaching.

In Reception, R.E is taught as a compulsory part of our basic curriculum and according to the Leicester Agreed Syllabus 2009/2010 and updated in 2015.

Religious education is predominantly focused on the key religious stories within the major Faiths and where children are encouraged to ask questions to develop knowledge and understanding. Children compare past and present events as well as comparing similarities and differences between themselves and others, among families, communities and traditions. Celebrations also feature heavily in the Early Years RE curriculum.

The Curriculum in KS1

RE is taught as a compulsory part of our basic curriculum and according to the Leicester Agreed Syllabus 2009/2010 and updated in 2015.

All of our curriculum areas contribute towards the development of the whole child and when planning, teachers address the child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development both through cross curricular teaching as well as through the RE curriculum. Through an exploration of teachings, beliefs and practices of the major faiths we encourage children to grow on their understanding of religion and traditions and assist children to reflect on what these ideas and concepts mean to themselves.

We encourage children to think, listen and talk to each other about their own views and values whilst respecting the opinions and beliefs of others. Teaching is not via set topics on individual religions, but rather a question based approach which allows children to compare and contrast the different religions and their beliefs.

Year one	Year two
What can stories teach us about life?	What do I believe? Where do I belong?
What do different people believe God is like?	Who is an inspiring person? Who inspires me?
Can we find the meaning of symbols?	What makes some places special?
How do we show we care for others?	What are the big questions we have about life?
How and why do people celebrate?	How and why do people celebrate?

Children will also have the opportunity to visit places of worship during their time in Key Stage One.

Collective worship

The school holds a determination of collective worship which was approved by Governors and parents as well as the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). This means that we are released from the requirement to provide collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian nature.

Our aims of collective worship are:

- To promote and encourage diversity, collaboration, honesty, understanding and respect.
- To encourage children to value and respect the beliefs, cultures and religions of others and to feel safe and secure with their own beliefs

We hold a daily act of collective worship which has been developed to encourage all children, irrespective of their faith or culture, to reflect upon a set of Universal values such as; love, peace, truth, co-operation, hard work and respect. These values act as the foundation not only for religious education but for the development of personal, social and health education, citizenship and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of our curriculum. Times of quiet reflection enable children to

develop values and aspirations of the human spirit. All acts of worship aim to create, nurture and sustain a sense of community.

Monday – Key stage

Tuesday – Key stage

Wednesday – Year group or class

Thursday – Year group or class

Friday – Whole school

Throughout the year we hold festival assemblies; Eid, Christmas and Diwali which are all enthusiastically attended by parents and other schools. Other faith assemblies; Hanukkah, Chinese New year, Holi, Easter etc. are led by visitors or staff members.

All half-termly themes follow the SEAL scheme of work or directly correspond to British Values and SMSC.

Class assemblies reflect both values and learning that has taken place.

SMSC

SMSC stands for **spiritual, moral, social and cultural** development. It is our responsibility to promote the children's SMSC development whilst they are in our school. This is implemented through our curriculum, assemblies and opportunities we provide for our children throughout their whole educational experience at Uplands Infant School.

Social

Children explore beliefs and experiences; respect faiths, feelings and values. They enjoy learning about themselves, others and the surrounding world. Children are actively encouraged to use their imagination and creativity and are given time for reflection.

Moral

Children are taught to recognise right and wrong; respect the law and understand consequences. They are given opportunities to investigate moral and ethical issues whilst being encouraged to offer reasoned views.

Spiritual

A range of social skills are developed and used by our children. They participate in the local community; participate, volunteer and cooperate. They begin to understand and appreciate diverse viewpoints and are taught positive ways in which to resolve conflict. Children engage with the British Values of democracy, the rule of law, liberty, respect and tolerance.

Cultural

Children show knowledge of and appreciation of cultural influences. They understand the role of Britain's parliamentary system and why this is important to British Citizens. All children participate in cultural opportunities and understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

British Values

The fundamental British Values of:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith

are promoted through SMSC within school. During their time at Uplands Infant School, children are immersed in experiences which:

- Enables children to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- Enables children to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England
- Encourages children 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
- Enables children 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 children to acquire an appreciation for and respect for their own and other cultures
- Encourages respect for other people
- 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.

As a school we actively promote personal responsibility, respect and a strong sense of community throughout the life of the school. These attitudes are for life, not just for school and they equip our children to live in multi-cultural city and a wider world of diversity.

Monitoring and Review

The day to day monitoring of this policy is the responsibility of the Head teacher. This policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier if considered necessary.

Agreed Date: Sept 2019

Review Date: Sept 2022

Signed:  **Head Teacher**