



'Let your Light Shine' Matthew 5:16

**Northleaze Church of England Primary School
Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Policy 2025**

Written by	Headteacher
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This policy should be taken as part of the overall strategy of the school and operated within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England School.

Our Christian Values:

Responsibility, Creativity, Respect, Compassion, Resilience, Friendship

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Northleaze CofE Primary School

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) Policy 2025

Definition

At Northleaze Church of England Primary School, the promotion of pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development is a central pillar of our work and is rooted in our vision: *“Let Your Light Shine”* (Matthew 5:16). We believe SMSC is not an isolated element but is woven through every subject, our enriched curriculum, and the daily life of the school. It is expressed through our Christian ethos and the nurturing of positive attitudes and values that enable every child to flourish.

This policy supports and reinforces our commitment to valuing all children and adults equally as individuals. We aim to provide an environment where everyone feels respected, listened to, and encouraged to grow. Relationships between staff, pupils, parents and governors are fundamental to this vision and are characterised by mutual respect, trust, and a willingness to listen and learn from one another.

Our approach is underpinned by our six Christian values—Responsibility, Creativity, Respect, Compassion, Resilience and Friendship—and informed by principles of nurture, ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and able to let their light shine.

Introduction

At Northleaze, we recognise that pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fundamental to their learning, wellbeing and ability to thrive. Our vision *“Let Your Light Shine”* underpins this commitment, encouraging every child to grow in character, confidence and compassion.

We aim to provide an education that offers rich opportunities for pupils to:

- Explore and develop their own values and beliefs
- Build spiritual awareness and curiosity
- Demonstrate high standards of personal behaviour
- Show care and respect for others
- Understand their social and cultural heritage
- Appreciate the diversity and richness of life in modern Britain and the wider world

All schools are required to offer a curriculum which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and of society
- Prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life

At Northleaze, SMSC is embedded across the curriculum and in the wider life of the school. Every subject contributes to this development, and our Christian ethos provides a strong foundation for exploring values, principles and spirituality. We respect and learn about other faiths and worldviews, recognising diversity and encouraging pupils to engage with alternative perspectives.

Adults in our school model positive attitudes and behaviour, treating all people as valued individuals. Children are taught to distinguish right from wrong, understand the importance of rules, and take

responsibility for their actions. Our school rules and restorative approach promote fairness and respect, while celebrating achievement and effort.

British Values

We actively teach **British Values**—democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance—and show how these apply in everyday life. Across all curriculum areas, teachers use examples and resources that reflect a wide range of cultural contexts, ensuring pupils develop as informed, respectful and open-minded citizens.

Aims of SMSC

Our SMSC provision aims to:

- Ensure everyone in our school community understands and lives out our vision “*Let Your Light Shine*” and our six Christian values: Responsibility, Creativity, Respect, Compassion, Resilience, Friendship.
- Embed SMSC consistently across the curriculum and daily life of the school.
- Provide learning that is meaningful and appropriate to each child’s age, ability and background.
- Help children understand expectations for behaviour and the reasons behind them.
- Offer opportunities for pupils to reflect on and discuss their beliefs, feelings and experiences.
- Support children in developing a strong sense of self and belonging within groups and the wider community.
- Foster understanding of social and cultural diversity and appreciation of different traditions.
- Enable pupils to explore moral and social issues and develop responsibility for themselves and others.
- Promote spiritual growth through all aspects of school life and the curriculum (see Spirituality Policy).

Teaching and Learning at Northleaze

Spiritual Development

We aim to provide experiences that nurture pupils’ spiritual growth across the curriculum and school life. Children will have opportunities to:

- Experience moments of stillness, reflection and awe, including use of reflection spaces and invitational prayer
- Build self-esteem and confidence in their learning
- Develop curiosity, critical thinking and independent thought
- Express feelings and foster emotional wellbeing
- Show respect for people, beliefs and the natural world
- Explore and discuss beliefs, values and life’s big questions in a safe, open environment
- Form positive, meaningful relationships and demonstrate empathy
- Celebrate beauty, wonder and mystery in the world
- Engage creatively and joyfully in all curriculum areas, including Forest School and the arts
- Embrace opportunities for spiritual growth through RE, collective worship and enrichment activities

Moral Development

We aim to help pupils develop a strong moral compass and sense of responsibility. Children will:

- Recognise the value and dignity of every individual
- Explore moral challenges, including those found in the teachings of Jesus
- Listen respectfully and respond thoughtfully to others' views
- Learn resilience—coping with setbacks and learning from mistakes
- Take initiative and act responsibly for themselves and others
- Distinguish right from wrong and understand consequences
- Show courage, forgiveness and integrity in daily life
- Care for the environment and make sustainable choices
- Make informed, independent decisions based on reason and empathy

Social Development

- We aim to prepare pupils for life in community and society. Children will:
- Develop a sense of identity and belonging within the school and wider community
- Learn about service and contribution through roles such as School Council, Eco Team and Worship Leaders
- Understand fairness, justice and the importance of supporting those who are disadvantaged
- Work collaboratively, resolve conflicts and build positive relationships

Cultural Development

We aim to broaden pupils' horizons and celebrate diversity. Children will:

- Recognise Christianity as a global faith and explore its cultural expressions
- Appreciate the richness of cultural diversity in Britain and beyond
- Understand how culture influences identity, values and society
- Engage with music, art, literature and traditions from a wide range of cultures
- Participate in visits, workshops and events that promote intercultural understanding

SMSC Across the Curriculum

SMSC development is embedded throughout all curriculum areas and the wider life of the school. It has particularly strong links with:

- Religious Education (RE)
- Collective Worship
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE), delivered through *Jigsaw*
- Our Nurture approach

Children are encouraged to reflect on the significance of their learning, consider challenges to their own attitudes and lifestyle, and recognise a spiritual dimension in everyday experiences. For more detail, see our **Spirituality Policy**.

Cultural Context

All subjects should include examples and resources from a wide range of cultural contexts to broaden pupils' understanding and appreciation of diversity.

Classroom Opportunities

Through discussion and reflection, pupils will:

- Share personal experiences and feelings

- Express and clarify ideas and beliefs
- Talk about difficult events (e.g., bereavement, bullying) in a safe environment
- Explore British Values and their relevance
- Consider relationships, empathy and respect for others
- Develop self-esteem, belonging and positive attitudes
- Build skills such as open-mindedness, sensitivity and critical awareness

Practical Activities

SMSC is promoted through practical experiences such as:

- Collaborative learning and teamwork
- Taking responsibility (e.g., School Council, Eco Team, Worship Leaders, buddies)
- Activities that promote British Values (e.g., elections, rule of law, national anthem)
- Celebrating achievements and respecting others' contributions
- Experiencing music, art and literature from diverse cultures
- Meeting people from different backgrounds
- Educational visits and live performances
- Collective Worship themes exploring heritage, festivals and global events
- Creative workshops
- Cooking and evaluating food from different cultures
- Learning songs and playing instruments
- Curriculum themes such as Black History Month
- Studying contributions of significant individuals to society

Links with the Wider Community

At Northleaze, we value strong partnerships with our local community. These links enrich pupils' learning and promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

- **Welcoming Visitors:** We invite visitors into school to share expertise, lead workshops and support curriculum enrichment.
- **Church Partnerships:** We maintain close links with All Saints' Church, Long Ashton. Reverend Jo and Reverend James lead termly collective worship, and pupils have the opportunity to attend Bible Club, which supports their understanding of Christian faith in an invitational way.
- **Diocesan Links:** Visits to **Wells Cathedral**, including the Year 6 Leavers' Service, help pupils understand their place within the wider Christian community.
- **Charitable Work:** We support a range of charities, fostering compassion and responsibility. Examples include Jeans for Genes Day, Comic Relief, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and emergency appeals.
- **Celebrating Diversity:** We embrace Britain's cultural diversity through curriculum activities, arts projects, and visits to places such as Bristol and London. We welcome people of all faiths and none for workshops and events.
- **Home-School Partnership:** Strong relationships with parents are central to our ethos. We work collaboratively to support children's learning and wellbeing.
- **Environmental Responsibility:** Pupils learn to care for their local environment through our conservation area, vegetable garden and Eco Team, supported by volunteers from the community.

- **Transition Support:** We liaise closely with **Backwell School** and **Nailsea School** to ensure smooth transition for pupils moving to secondary education.

Monitoring and Evaluation

SMSC provision is regularly monitored through:

- Learning walks, work scrutiny and planning reviews by the Headteacher, RE/Collective Worship/PSHE leads and governors (including the Ethos Committee)
- Staff and governor discussions
- Policy audits
- Inclusion of SMSC priorities in the School Improvement Plan
- Sharing good practice across the school

Findings inform staff development, curriculum planning and policy updates.

Inclusion

Our vision *“Let Your Light Shine”* reflects our commitment to valuing every individual and fostering a strong sense of community. We are committed to equality of opportunity regardless of race, culture, ability or disability. We promote equity—providing what each child needs to flourish—rather than simple equality.

Implementation

All staff share responsibility for planning and delivering SMSC. The Headteacher is the SMSC lead, supported by the Foundation Governor.

Related Policies and Documents

- Spirituality Policy
- Religious Education Policy
- Collective Worship Policy
- Behaviour and Relationships Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Equality and Inclusion Policy
- RSHE Policy
- E-Safety and Acceptable Use Policy