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BROOKLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL



Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education Policy

Intent

At Brookland Junior School, the children and their learning are at the very heart of every decision made. This policy reflects our diverse mix of pupils and does not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics.

Our school prides itself on providing a consistently safe, caring, nurturing and happy environment where each pupil is valued as an individual and can develop towards their full potential. This policy reflects the ways in which the school helps pupils to develop their individuality and inner discipline. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) education of our pupils is implemented throughout the school's activities and is not limited to specific SMSC lessons.

Aims

- To provide a safe, caring and happy environment where each child is valued as an individual and can develop towards his/her full potential.
- To provide for each child a wide, balanced curriculum of high quality, appropriate to the interests and aspirations of the individual encouraging the development of the whole person and fulfilling the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- To develop the potential of each child within his/her capabilities, recognising different needs and abilities and providing challenges and appropriate teaching at each stage of development.
- To set and maintain standards of discipline, courtesy and general moral values so that the school community may function effectively.
- To engender a sense of self-respect, independence and self-motivation. To increase the individual's capacity to accept responsibility for actions taken. To encourage children to recognise their responsibility to and dependence on others to help them become active, reasoning participants in a democratic society.
- To provide a non-sexist, non-racist atmosphere that fosters respect for religious and moral values linked with tolerance of other people, backgrounds, religions and lifestyles.
- To foster links between home and school and develop a partnership with parents in the education of their children.
- To develop children's knowledge of how to stay safe – physically, emotionally and online.

1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 2002
- DfE (2014) 'Promoting fundamental British values as part of SMSC in schools'
- DfE (2014) 'National curriculum in England framework for key stages 1 to 4'
- Ofsted (2024) 'School inspection handbook'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and practices:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Online Safety Policy

- Behaviour Policy
- Home-School Agreement
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Child on Child Abuse Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- SMSC Audit
- PSHE Policy, including RSE
- Curriculum map overviews
- Half-termly curriculum overviews for each year group
- Assembly maps
- Brookland values and Learning skills
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Policy

2. A whole-school approach to SMSC education

The governing body will ensure that SMSC education is embedded across the school's activities to ensure that the potential of each pupil is developed in accordance with their individual needs and capabilities. Our pupils aim to be 'the best they can be' in all areas of development.

The Headteacher, with all staff, will facilitate and encourage a school environment which is welcoming, inclusive and safe for all pupils and members of the school community, irrespective of their protected characteristics and/or background. Staff will be expected to model high standards of discipline, courtesy, respect and acceptance of others, and to encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own actions.

The school's **spiritual development** provision enables pupils to:

- Be reflective about their beliefs, religious or otherwise, and their perspective on life.
- Have knowledge of, and respect for, different people's faiths, feelings and values.
- Develop a sense of enjoyment and fascination in learning about themselves, others and the world around them.
- Use imagination and creativity in their learning.
- Develop willingness to reflect on their experiences.

The school's **moral development** provision enables pupils to:

- Recognise the difference between right and wrong, readily apply this understanding in their own lives and, in doing so, respect the civil and criminal law of England.
- Understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions.
- Develop an interest in investigating and offering reasoned views about moral and ethical issues, and an ability to understand and appreciate the viewpoints of others on these issues.

The school's **social development** provision enables pupils to:

- Use a range of social skills in different contexts, including working and socialising with pupils from different religious, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- Participate in a variety of community and social settings, including by volunteering, cooperating well with others and being able to resolve conflicts effectively.
- Accept and engage with the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and acceptance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Develop and demonstrate skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate fully in, and contribute positively to, life in modern Britain.

The school's **cultural development** provision enables pupils to:

- Understand and appreciate the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their own heritage and that of others.
- Understand and appreciate the range of different cultures within the school, and further afield, as an essential element of their preparation for life in modern Britain.
- Develop knowledge of Britain's democratic parliamentary system and its central role in shaping our history and values, and in continuing to develop Britain.
- Participate in, and respond positively to, artistic, sporting and cultural opportunities.
- Develop an interest in exploring, improving their understanding of, and showing respect for, different faiths and cultures.
- Understand, accept, respect, and celebrate diversity, as shown by their tolerance and attitudes towards different religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups in the local, national and global communities.

The Headteacher will work in collaboration with SLT and the SENCO to ensure that lessons and activities, and expectations of pupils in relation to those lessons and activities, are appropriately adjusted to accommodate the needs of pupils with SEND.

3. Cross-curriculum teaching and learning

SMSC education will take place across all areas of the curriculum. SMSC has particularly strong links to religious education, citizenship, history and PSHE. The school has developed an SMSC audit, which shows where SMSC education, respectively, are embedded into subjects and provides evidence of their inclusion. This audit is updated annually.

All areas of the curriculum will draw examples from as wide a range of cultural contexts as possible. Teaching staff will be expected to foster an open environment in their lessons in which respect, tolerance and acceptance for different values, opinions and backgrounds, and team work are encouraged and prioritised in line with the guiding principles of SMSC education.

Teaching staff will sensitively and respectfully use classroom discussion to support pupils to:

- Talk about their experiences, thoughts and feelings.
- Express and clarify personal ideas and beliefs.
- Speak about difficult events, e.g. bullying and death.
- Explore their relationships with friends, family and others.
- Consider, and show empathy towards, the needs and experiences of others.
- Develop self-esteem and personal confidence.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Develop their SMSC skills, e.g. compassion, respect, open-mindedness, sensitivity and critical awareness.

Many areas across the curriculum provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Listen and talk to each other.
- Learn to treat one another as equals, regardless of protected characteristics and/or background.
- Recognise and celebrate the differences and similarities between themselves and others.
- Agree and disagree with people respectfully.
- Work co-operatively and collaboratively.

Brookland Junior school will use the following methods to help pupils develop an understanding of how they can influence decision making through the democratic process:

- Electing a school council each year
- Hearing pupils' voice through a suggestion box
- Establishing monitoring roles for pupils, e.g. class monitors and cloakroom monitors, to allow pupils opportunities to develop and display leadership skills
- Appointing leaders and 'champions' across a range of subjects, including PE leaders and music champions.
- Prefect roles for Year 6 pupils
- Issuing pupil questionnaires to gather pupil opinions on decisions
- Taking part in whole school meetings each term
- Providing pupils with opportunities to build balanced arguments and form opinions, e.g. by taking part in debates and public speaking

The school will use the following methods to help pupils develop an understanding of the rule of law:

- Setting and enforcing high expectations for attendance, punctuality and behaviour
- Setting and enforcing classroom and school rules
- Teaching pupils about laws that are relevant to the school setting and age of pupils
- Teaching pupils about adults who fulfil roles designed to help others, including staff members, emergency services, friends and family
- Teaching pupils about the role of the monarchy and of previous monarchies
- Providing pupils with opportunities to celebrate the lives of people who have influenced the course of history
- Visiting speakers such as Magistrates inform pupils of UK laws and legal processes
- Implementing clear, consistent and defined sanctions for challenging behaviour in line with the Behaviour Policy

We may use the following methods to help pupils develop an understanding of different faiths and beliefs:

- Celebrating differences and similarities through cultural events, for example, International Day, refugee week, international food tasting events.
- Each year group visits a different place of worship every year
- Teaching about different beliefs and cultures through RE lessons, assemblies, class circle times and visiting speakers.
- Exploring moral values through lessons, stories and assemblies
- Arranging visits from various religious leaders and community representatives

The school will also employ additional practical activities and practices to encourage pupils' SMSC development, including the following:

- Encouraging pupils to work together in different groupings and situations
- Embedding the zones of regulation as a tool for discussing feelings and developing strategies for regulating emotions.
- Weeks such as neurodiversity week and identity week promote acceptance and understanding, celebrating the differences and similarities between themselves and others
- Encouraging teamwork and sportsmanship in PE lessons, on the playground and in extra-curricula clubs
- Year 3 pupils have nominated buddies in the school to enrich their school experience and support their transition.
- Providing opportunities for pupils to consume and study literature, art, music and media from artists of different cultures, backgrounds, genres and faiths
- Mindfulness and wellbeing sessions are held after lunch each day in classrooms
- Organising a variety of different social and cultural school trips, e.g. to museums or places of worship
- Wellbeing ambassadors provide support in the playground.
- Regular training for pupils is held by the Diana Foundation on developing anti-bullying and anti-racist whole school actions, which are actioned by pupils.
- Visits from NSPCC, community police, local magistrates, local foodbanks etc keep children informed and aware of support within the local community
- Hearing and seeing live performances by professional actors, dancers and musicians
- Learning songs from different cultures and playing a range of instruments
- Philosophy for children sessions are part of our teaching and learning toolkit
- Making and consuming food from other countries
- Studying the contributions to society that famous people of all backgrounds have made

Teaching staff will help pupils' SMSC development by:

- Encouraging teamwork across all subjects in all lessons.
- Encouraging an appreciation of, and respect for, the work and performance of other pupils, regardless of perceived ability.
- Using themes, e.g. in assemblies, circle times and lessons, to explore important aspects of British heritage and other cultures, e.g. religious festival days and global events.

4. Community links

Brookland Junior School recognises that an important part of SMSC development is enabling pupils to become active participants in their local community and, as such, will continue to foster strong links with the wider community.

These links will be formed through a variety of activities, including:

- Pupil-led fundraising activities.
- Open evenings
- Winter Fair – year 6s run their own stalls
- Parent Speakers and parent volunteers
- Local school partnership opportunities

- Local geography and history talks and walks in the local area
- Multicultural food days with parents
- Supporting local charities such as Homeless Action in Barnet, Foodbank Aid and North London Hospice
- Inviting parents to join in with lessons and activities in classrooms
- Morning tea events
- Class assemblies with a meet and greet coffee morning.
- Local sports events
- Local visits and trips
- Singing at the local Proms
- Volunteering in local organisations such as the nursing home.
- Accessing the community library and visiting local book shops
- Visits to and from a number of local secondary schools
- Local litter collecting
- Close working relationship with Brookland Infant and Nursery School

5. Promoting fundamental British values

The school will use SMSC education to promote fundamental British values by:

- Including, in suitable parts of the curriculum, age-appropriate material on the strengths, advantages and disadvantages of democracy, and how democracy and the law works in Britain compared to other countries.
- Teaching pupils a broad and balanced international history.
- Representing the cultures of all our pupils within the curriculum.
- Teaching a wide range of English and non-English literature.
- Listening to the voices of all pupils and promoting active participation in democratic processes, e.g. through a school council.
- Using democratic opportunities in the wider community, e.g. general and local elections, to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn how to argue and defend points of view.
- Using teaching resources from a wide variety of sources to help pupils learn about and understand a range of faiths.
- Using extra-curricular activities to promote fundamental British values.

By promoting fundamental British values through SMSC education, we will provide pupils with:

- An understanding of how they can influence decision making through the democratic process.
- An appreciation that living under the rule of law protects them and is essential for their wellbeing and safety.
- An understanding that there is a separation of power between the executive and the judiciary, and while some public bodies, for example the police, can be held to account by parliament, others maintain independence, for example, the court system.
- An understanding that their freedom to choose and hold faiths and beliefs is protected by law.
- An acceptance that people of different faiths and beliefs to themselves (and those with no faiths or beliefs) should be accepted and tolerated, and should not be subject to prejudicial or discriminatory behaviour.
- An understanding of the importance of identifying and combatting discrimination.

6. Ofsted inspections

As part of its activities when carrying out ungraded, graded, and urgent inspections of schools and academies across England, Ofsted will assess the effectiveness of the school's SMSC provision.

Inspectors will judge the schools' SMSC provision based on the following factors:

- Whether the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental, and physical development of pupils is actively promoted by the school
- Whether the SMSC provision enhances pupils' personal development in relation to citizenship education and fundamental British values
- Whether the school's work to enhance its own SMSC provision is of a high quality

The school will ensure that all of the 'good' criteria are met securely and consistently in order for its personal development provision to be judged as 'outstanding'. Additionally, the school will ensure that its provision includes the following elements:

- The school consistently promotes the extensive personal development of pupils, providing a wide variety of opportunities for them to develop their talents and interests
- There's strong take-up by pupils of the opportunities provided by the school
- The opportunities provided by the school are chosen in a coherently planned way through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities

The school will ensure that its curriculum prioritises its personal development provision in order for that provision to be judged as 'good'. This includes the school meeting the following criteria:

- Ensuring that the curriculum stretches beyond the academic, vocational, and technical
- Working to support pupils' confidence, resiliency, independency, and strength of character
- Ensuring that high quality pastoral support is provided, including guiding students to maintain a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle
- Providing opportunities for pupils to have their interests nurtured, developed, and stretched
- Preparing pupils for life in modern Britain, developing their understanding of fundamental British values, democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, as well as tolerance and respect for those of different faiths and beliefs
- Promoting equality of opportunity and diversity effectively
- Promoting pupils' engagement with views, beliefs, and opinions that are different from their own
- Providing pupils with meaningful opportunities to understand how to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society

7. Impact - Monitoring and Review

At Brookland Junior School, we listen to the views of our pupils and their parents/carers. We operate an open door policy for the sharing of views and also have a formal system in place including:

- Pupil questionnaire.
- Parents' questionnaire.

- Bi-annual parents' evenings/meetings.
- Invitation for parents to feed back with the annual reports

SMSC provision is reviewed on an annual basis in the following ways:

- Monitoring of teaching and learning and work scrutiny by the curriculum coordinator, Headteacher and governors as part of our general monitoring.
- Regular discussions at staff and governors' meetings.
- Annual updates of our SMSC map as an audit.
- Development of Religious Education, PSHE and school assemblies to reflect the diversity of both our school and society.
- Sharing of classroom work and practice.
- Regular staff training time to review current practice and to identify areas for improvement and growth.