

Girnhill Infant School

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and British Values

At Girnhill Infant School we believe our well embedded SMCS curriculum prepares our children well for life in modern Britain. We realise the personal development of our children is essential for them to reach their full potential. The SMSC development of all pupils is therefore at the heart of our ethos.

We believe that to learn effectively our children must:

- Feel happy, secure and valued
- Have their individuality respected
- Have their differences celebrated
- Have their difficulties understood
- Have their interests extended
- Have their talents developed and celebrated

The SMSC development runs alongside academic development enabling pupils to explore and develop:

- Their own values and beliefs
- Their spiritual awareness
- Their personal behaviour
- Positive and caring attitudes towards others
- Understanding of their social and cultural roots
- An appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures

Spiritual Development

Pupils are given opportunities to:

- Engage in activities which involve listening, reflecting, puzzling, searching for truth, for example in our RE curriculum with units of work including special places, the world around us and ourselves
- Develop an understanding of their own feelings, likes and dislikes through our arts curriculum with the appreciation of artwork, pieces of music, stories and poetry
- Engage in activities which involve questioning, valuing, creating, empathising, imagining
- Involvement in activities to help others eg. Charity activities such as collections in response to disasters
- Exploring diversity and difference through units of work in
- Geography, Where in the World?

- RE, places of worship and celebrations
- Engaging with a faith community – the local Methodist Church
- Appreciate the beauty of the natural world through visits

Moral Development

The school has:

- A clear Positive Behaviour Policy, updated annually, which is shared and understood by pupils, staff, parents and governors
- A clear system of individual and class rewards, such as star of the week, headteacher's award, dojo points, pebbles in the jar, all of which support the development of positive behaviours
- A clear system of sanctions used consistently across the school enabling pupils to take responsibility for their own actions
- Weekly SEALs lessons in each class, appropriate to age group, organised in to whole school half termly themes. This is supported by assemblies.
- Participation in school and community events such as visits to the local church, singing at the local residential home, partnership work with WDH and fund raising for charities
- Regular writing opportunities across the curriculum eg to express their moral values
- Showing an understanding of their rights and responsibilities and those of others eg contracts drawn up in the first week of the school year based on the schools' Behaviour Policy, School Council Meetings
- Developing an understanding of the principles of equality of opportunity (race, gender, disability, etc) through assemblies, and the history curriculum covering famous historical figures such as Mary Seacole, Grace Darling
- Develop an awareness of citizenship through the School Council and the SEALs curriculum

Social Development

As part of the Featherstone Pyramid pupils have the opportunity to mix with pupils from the other schools in the area through:

- Sporting events at different school venues
- Year 2 transition events with Purston Infant School and St Thomas' Junior School

Pupils experience democratic voting systems through the election of the School Council.

The use of Kagan structures used across the curriculum promotes the development of a range of social skills as it requires pupils to work cooperatively, take equal turns and communicate constructively with their peers.

In terms of citizenship pupils are taught:

- To take responsibility for their own actions and make informed choices eg through the implementation of the Behaviour Policy
- To respect the rights of each other eg through the SEALs curriculum
- To co-operate on joint projects and activities eg group art sculptures, drama presentations, musical compositions, poetry recitals, team games and group dances

Cultural Development

- Children learn about their heritage and that of others through an enquiry led curriculum. This includes strong links with Featherstone rovers to learn about the history of Featherstone and its' mining links.
- Significant sporting and cultural events evolving from the current news agenda are also celebrated eg the Olympic Legacy and the Queen's Golden Jubilee

Cultural events are planned in to the curriculum as well as extra-curricular activities:

- Theatre company visits
- Schools library service visits to Early Years
- Visits to museums/places linked to topics eg Yorkshire Sculpture Park
- Local library initiatives eg the Big Read

To further support the development of British Values, with the aim of fostering and developing tolerance in the society in which they live, the following opportunities are in place:

- Assemblies to commemorate national days, eg Remembrance day, Saints days
- Year 2 visit to Cenotaph on Remembrance Day
- SEALs lessons and assemblies to promote respect and tolerance
- Opportunities to hold school elections
- Visits and visitors