



SMSC at St. Benedict's

Curriculum Intent

Our intention at St. Benedict's is to make the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of all our pupils central to everything we do. We want it to encompass all we do on a daily basis and we recognise that it is central to what we are. We aim to develop SMSC through the main areas of school life, mission statement, school ethos, daily collective worship and our school curriculum. We believe that every adult in our school is a vital resource concerning the development of our pupils. We aim to create a happy and vibrant environment where diversity and individuality are celebrated.

Spiritual development at St Benedict's is an exploration into what makes us human. We want children to feel the presence of God in their lives and to provide them with a rich learning experience and opportunities to discover life skills they will need in the future. We want every pupil to know God.

Morally, we aim that our children will learn 'right' from 'wrong'. Every adult they meet should be a role model to achieve this. We aim to provide a moral framework, which is based on Gospel values, where children can develop a sense of morality. Through school ethos, collective worship, and our curriculum, we as teachers will put into practice our own moral development and support our pupils in making moral decisions. We want to guide them to follow God's teaching to love and respect all others.

We aim to provide our children with a wide range of social and cultural experiences. We would like children to appreciate cultural differences and the role of the British parliamentary system. Our aim is that pupils experience a wide range of cultural opportunities. They should accept, respect and celebrate cultural diversity and come to understand the Gospel values of justice, freedom and peace.

Curriculum Implementation

SMSC is implemented in different ways. Spiritual development is ensured through the effective use of the 'Come and See/Journey in Love' programmes and our RSHE programme, 'Life to the Full.' Pupils take part in daily class collective worship and all classes have collective worship focused tables. Participation and active response is encouraged through leadership and planning of these sessions. Personal and community prayer takes place in school assemblies. Mass and religious celebrations such as Harvest Festival which happen throughout the year. SMSC is delivered through a range of whole school activities. Pupils are given the opportunity to enhance their learning and engage in concepts and content through a range of subjects.

Morally, our 'Come and See,' 'Journey in Love' and 'Life to the Full' curriculum is central to what we do. Pupils are given the opportunity to contribute to local and national initiatives eg. Anti Bullying Week, community cohesion and school fundraising activities. Pupils also have an awareness of class and school rules and they are actively involved in making these. Class and school reward systems are in place to celebrate achievement. 'Star of the Week' certificates are presented in assembly for pupils who have been role models. 'High Five' awards celebrate individual pupil's moral strengths, all chosen by their peers. Our house system encourages pupils to make the right choices and decisions and we celebrate attainment, success, kindness and friendship. The

elected school council is there to hear the voices and views of pupils. Y6 develop close links with Reception through becoming sponsors where they become role models for Reception pupils. Groups of children work with the school's pastoral support to aid with development of moral codes of conduct and social stories take place with children who need more detailed support with this. Pupils can go to Playleaders and Peer Mediators to assist them and guide them through situations.

Socially, we provide opportunities for pupils to develop an understanding of their individual and group identity. We foster their roles as citizens through sponsoring, peer mentoring, an elected school council and fund raising. Throughout the year, awareness days are held to enable children to develop a social responsibility and empathy for those in less fortunate positions than themselves. Each class visits a local residential care home regularly where strong bonds are formed between the children and the elderly in the community. Our pupils have strong links with the parish whilst being prepared for sacraments. Through the teaching of 'Come and See', 'Life to the Full', daily collective worship and taking part in activities for CAFOD, children begin to understand the Christian responsibility for social justice and positive citizenship.

We promote cultural development through a caring and supportive learning environment and aim to give pupils a rich and diverse cultural experience. Our pupils are given a range of experiences throughout their school career. These include theatre visits, watching classical concerts, visiting museums and local science events. As part of their experience, each class learns songs from a different influential musical artist so by the end of Year 6, they have an appreciation of various genres. We encourage visiting professionals to provide talks/workshops for our pupils and all children have a weekly Spanish lesson. Through the teaching of 'Come and See', children learn that they are part of a multi cultural society and 'Other Faiths Weeks' deepen their understanding of this.

Curriculum Impact

Pupils have the knowledge of how to develop their self esteem and self awareness and make informed decisions and choices. They can understand and manage their own emotions and make sense of their own personal and social experiences. Pupils start to have an understanding of how society works and the rights and responsibilities involved, becoming healthy, independent and responsible citizens. Children have a voice which they know can result in change. They have a sense of self worth and play a positive role in contributing to school life and to the wider community. Through our curriculum, children are prepared for the next step in their education as well as preparing them for the adult world. Above all, pupils embrace all of the above in the light of Christian teaching and gospel values.