



SMSC STATEMENT 2022 - 2024

Date: September 2022

Due for Review: September 2024

Our Vision

We are excited by Jesus' invitation to 'live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10) and wish to create a loving community where, by serving God, excellence is pursued and individual achievement is celebrated, so that all children are inspired and empowered to flourish as successful adults.

"What the Spirit brings is; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Trustfulness, Gentleness and Self-control." Galatians 5:23

Our Values

Ambition, Compassion, Courage, Responsibility, Resilience, Respect, Honesty and Trust.

Our Aims

To prepare them for the next stages of their education and beyond we want all children to be ambitious in their acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding and be proud of their achievements.

In an ever-changing world, we want our children to develop the resilience to learn, the perseverance to problem solve and the courage to do their best and try new things.

To prepare children for adult life and support their personal well being and development we will teach our children to be responsible, respectful, trustworthy and honest in their relationships.

We want our children to become compassionate citizens of the world.

Opportunities to Access and Experience Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Aspects of Education

We believe SMSC Education lies at the heart of our curriculum. It supports our Christian Foundation, our Vision for our community and prepares each child for life in Modern Britain.

Spiritual Education

Promoting and nurturing children's personal spirituality is of huge importance to our school community. We believe spiritual education is more something that is 'felt' and is hard to define. However, we feel that by providing children with opportunities every day to feel loved, safe, secure and happy in our daily lives together, they develop the trust and confidence to open their minds and imaginations to explore their spiritual selves. We believe that it is more than 'special moments' and 'wow moments' (although we work hard to create these experiences for children within the school day) – it is also how we treat each other within our school community every day.

By nurturing spirituality we believe it helps us all to:

- Build and sustain our self esteem
- Develop our capacity for critical and independent thought
- Foster our emotional development, particularly in regard to being able to express feelings
- Develop our empathy and imagination



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- Appreciate moments of stillness and reflection
- Understand our moral obligations towards others
- Appreciate and be thankful for our lives
- Feel fulfilled personally and professionally

We have strong links with Christ Church at Ottershaw and actively use our curriculum to nurture spirituality through investigating, giving a choice of response, debating, questioning and providing space and time for independent thought and reflection each day. We also use Pause Week, Prayer Spaces and Godly Play within our RE curriculum to actively promote spirituality.

Moral Education

The children at Ottershaw have a strong understanding of right and wrong. This is reinforced through our values based behaviour system. All classes agree rules at the beginning of each year which are signed in a class charter and regularly embedded within our curriculum expectations. To reinforce the importance we place on our School Values children at the Junior School earn Merits for exemplifying the values and acting as role models to others. At both schools exemplification of School Values is rewarded in celebration assembly by a 'Values Certificate' and at the infants, children put a 'gold coin' on the Values Rainbow.

Children show a keen interest in offering views about moral and ethical issues, particularly through our Philosophy For Children (P4C) lessons. Children are given an understanding of how a democracy works through voting children to our Schools Councils in both schools, and, at the Junior School by voting for Head Boy, Head Girl and Sport Captains.

In addition, the Junior School also runs a House system. KS2 children are divided into 4 houses, and children are awarded points for their house to reward good behaviour and achievement, developing further a sense of collective responsibility.

Our ethos and charitable giving goes deeper than 'fund raising' to support those in need. We are committed to ensuring our children become leaders and compassionate citizens in their adult lives, and foster 'Courageous Advocacy' through our work with our School Councils each year.

Social Education

The school is at the heart of a supportive, social community. Children are encouraged to use a range of social skills in different contexts, through the provision of numerous clubs, fairs, discos, events, trips and inter-school events.

Cultural Education

As part of our Arts Mark accreditation, we thoughtfully enrich our curriculum with cultural experiences and visits.

Our children participate in a wide range of artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities. Their achievements within these areas are celebrated weekly during Celebration Assembly during which trophies, awards and certificates are shown and discussed.