

Firwood School SMSC Mission Statement



'Here at Firwood we believe SMSC is an essential component of a broad and balanced curriculum and it is our moral duty to ensure that we offer an inclusive and enriched learning environment for all. SMSC stands **for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**. In practice this means *'Exploring beliefs and experiences; respecting faiths, feelings and values; enjoying learning about oneself, others and the surrounding world; using imagination and being creative; reflection.'*

At Firwood SMSC underpins much of what we do. We recognise that the personal development of the children – spiritually, morally, socially and culturally – plays a significant role in their ability to **learn without limits**. We aim to encourage students to take an active role in their own learning, to embrace challenge and to develop their own values. We have a diverse community here at Firwood and we believe it is an essential part of what we do to celebrate, respect and promote difference in all areas.

Through our broad and balanced, personalised curriculum we aim to provide an education that provides children with opportunities to explore and develop:

- Their own values and beliefs
- Spiritual awareness
- High standards of personal behaviour
- A positive and caring attitude towards other people from all backgrounds
- An understanding and respect for their and others social and cultural traditions
- An appreciation of the diversity and richness of cultures and the world around them.

Spiritual Development – the children's beliefs, religious or otherwise, which inform their perspective on life and their interest in and respect for other people's beliefs and values. We promote this through the following:

- Our Religious Education programme which touches on the six main religions in the UK, allowing time for children to explore the core values of religious belief, and also to visit places of worship.
- Assemblies which celebrate beliefs and cultures from around the world
- MFL days which link to spiritual beliefs of others around the world.
- Taking children out on school trips or inviting people into the school that inspire awe and wonder.
- A PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) programme that allows pupils to reflect on their own feelings and develop an understanding of the feelings of others.
- Developing creativity and imagination through sensory exploration, play, literacy, art, design technology music, dance and drama.

Moral Development – a pupil's understanding, attitude and behaviour to what is right and what is wrong. This is developed through the following:

- Providing a clear moral code for behaviour which is promoted consistently through all aspects of the school. Our school rules are displayed appropriately in every classroom. We also promote this through assemblies, E-safety lessons, PSHE curriculum and class reward systems.
- Promoting equality in relation to religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or gender for all students and staff.
- Giving pupils opportunities to explore and develop moral concepts and values through the curriculum – PSHE, Wellbeing afternoons, R.E., History, Geography, Literacy, Drama.
- Encouraging children to take responsibility for their actions, through PSHE and the Behaviour Policy.
- Learning about and raising money for charities.
- Adults modelling fairness, integrity and respect for all pupils.
- Recognising and respecting different cultures represented by pupils and staff in the school – MFL/WOW days, Cultural displays around the school, texts used to support the curriculum.

Social Development – a pupil's progressive acquisition of the competencies and qualities needed to play a full part in society. We promote this through the following:

- Encouraging children to work co-operatively in the classroom and playground.
- Fostering a sense of community with common, inclusive values through assemblies, the PSHE curriculum, whole school events (Firfest/MFL days), cultural celebrations, transition mornings and parental engagement days.
- Encouraging children to recognise and respect social differences and similarities. E.g. using signs of the week/total communication approach for all.
- Providing children with opportunities to exercise leadership and responsibility, to ensure their voices are heard, through School Council.

Cultural Development – a child's understanding of the beliefs, values and customs in their own and others social, ethnic and national groups. We promote this through:

- Celebrating the attitudes, values and traditions of diverse cultures through the curriculum, assemblies, school social events, and visitors to the school.
- Recognising and nurturing particular gifts and talents through after school clubs, whole school theme days, assemblies, stars of the week and the curriculum.
- Recognising and celebration of national events such as the Earth Day and Remembrance Day.
- Themed days celebrated throughout the school e.g. Valentine's Day, Eid Ul Fitr.