

BISHOP BARRINGTON SCHOOL

Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development Policy

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the child is recognized as being of fundamental importance for the education of all children by Governors, staff and parents of our school. It is taught through all subjects of the curriculum and in particular in RE lessons. It supports all areas of learning and can contribute to the child's motivation to learn. It is recognized that such development will be most successful when the values and attitudes promoted by the staff provide a model of behaviour for the children.

Spiritual development is relevant to all children. In developing the spirituality of children, we help them to be aware of:

- * The human search for the meaning and purpose of life which may lead to an understanding of, and a belief in, God
- * The joy of being alive
- * The joy of the natural world
- * The mystery and wonder of existence
- * The world of imagination and creativity
- * The value of the non - material dimension of life
- * The need to understand oneself and one's feelings
- * The need to value oneself and one's feelings

In this way, spiritual development encourages

- * Self awareness
- * Reflection

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- * Reasoning
- * A sense of enduring identity
- * Good relationships
- * Co-operation and empathy

Moral development relates to a child's developing understanding of what is 'right', 'wrong' and 'fair'.

Moral development is concerned with:

- * Developing the child's awareness and understanding of the moral code of the communities in which they live; these may or may not be statutory
- * Helping the child to realize that to enjoy rights, we have to accept responsibilities
- * Developing the child's understanding of why rules are necessary
- * Developing the child's self - discipline so that rules are observed as a point of principle, and not out of fear of sanctions
- * Giving the child the knowledge and ability to question and to reason so that they are capable of deciding on the most appropriate action after considering the consequences of an action.
- * Develop the skills necessary to explain their own behaviour
- * Value physical well -being, privacy, feeling, beliefs and rights of others

Cultural development allows the child to recognize that all cultural groups are distinctive. Culture is the embodiment of shared beliefs, knowledge,

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customs and values of that group. The child needs to appreciate the distinctive features of their own culture and those of others. This will help children to answer the following questions, 'Who am I?' and, 'Where do I fit in?'

We need to remember that cultures are dynamic and are constantly being re-shaped.

The RE Department will promote cultural development through:

- * Exposing children to a wealth of stimuli from their own culture and those of others. Pupils will have the opportunity to examine artifacts, foods and costumes from different cultures. A new module in Year 8 has been written which addresses a lot of these important issues. Workshops and visits will support this teaching
- * Encourage participation in and appreciation of, the wealth of cultural traditions and beliefs associated with these
- * Encouraging tolerance and appreciation of the beliefs, values and customs of different cultures.

Policy approved by Governors on : 21st June 2010 (Finance Committee)

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